Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-028 *13 February 1989*

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Ortega, Arias Arrive in El Salvador for Summit

PA1302023189 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0057 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in El Salvador today, Sunday, at 1800 [0000 GMT] to attend the summit of Central American presidents on Monday and Tuesday.

According to an official report, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias also arrived today.

As everyone knows, the five presidents will stay at the Tesoro Beach Hotel.

Costa Rican, Honduran Ministers Meet Baker

PA1102005489 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 10 Feb 89

[News conference held by Costa Rican Foreign Relations Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto and Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras with unidentified reporters "yesterday" in Washington, D.C.—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Foreign Minister Madrigal, would you comment on your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Madrigal] Gladly. I met Baker briefly at a luncheon when he was Treasury secretary. [Costa Rican Ambassador to the United States] Jimenez made this appointment for me, believing that exchanging impressions and becoming better acquainted would be a good idea. We took advantage of the fact that I was already in New York and could travel easily to Washington.

Baker and I continued the conversation we had begun when he was secretary of the Treasury. We naturally spoke about the current situation, on very general terms. We had an initial exchange, keeping in mind that once the United States develops its policy a bit further—the current U.S. Administration has only been in office for 18 days—we will all work towards implementing the plans developed in Esquipulas. We are concerned about strengthening Esquipulas and seeing its plans become a reality. I for one will resort to any person, foreign ministry, or government that could influence the successful implementation of the Esquipulas plan.

[Reporter] What have you asked from the United States?

[Madrigal] I have not asked them for anything. I did not think this was the proper time to make any requests. We are just beginning our relationship and a presidential summit is about to take place. I would say that a lot will depend on the outcome of the summit. After the summit, we can request the United States adopt a specific attitude or provide cooperation for a specific plan. Before the summit takes place, however, we cannot make empty requests.

[Reporter] That is true. The other day in Caracas President Arias said he felt the United States would now give the peace plan a chance. Did you get the same impression from your meeting with Baker?

[Madrigal] Yes, of course. I would say the United States has repeatedly expressed its approval and support of the peace plan. It has even gone a step further. If I recall correctly, during his speech to the U.S. Congress Baker said the Bush administration wants to truly engage in a period of great diplomatic activity. The current U.S. Government wants to characterize the first phase of its administration by intense diplomatic activity with other countries in the hemisphere and in the world. I thought this was the case and Baker has reiterated that today. I believe this will happen.

[Reporter] Did Baker tell you who will be the next assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs?

[Madrigal] I did not even dare to ask. [laughter]

[Reporter] The peace plan stipulates that irregular forces, such as the contras, should not exist. Did you get any impression that the United States will no longer provide such groups with military aid?

[Madrigal] We did not specifically discuss that issue. We did discuss reaching a diplomatic and political solution, but we did not discuss the contras. We need to consider this problem along two lines. Just as we are interested in seeing an end to the insurgent forces in Nicaragua, we would also like to see an end to the guerrilla forces in El Salvador and to those who support them. Otherwise it does no good to do away with violence in one spot if violence and destruction continue in another spot. In this regard, we hope the plan proposed publicly by the FMLN, which is being considered by the Salvadoran Government, will be successful. As far as I understand, there are new developments in the political parties' search to see if they can reach a more permanent understanding that will put an end to violence in El Salvador. We are very interested in that, and we believe it is a very positive step.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister: Have the Central American presidents sent a message through you to Mr Baker?

[Madrigal] No, I did not request that. It did not occur to us that we had to receive a message from Mr Baker or from some president. If someone later wants to send a message, or support, or whatever, he can do so, but at no time did we request such a thing.

[Reporter] But President Arias said the summit had been delayed in order to learn more about U.S. policy. Is U.S. policy so well-known now that the summit can take place?

[Madrigal] I would not say that there is ever enough time for something that is a continual process. The truth is that I believe we will never have a definite stand. I would say we now have a clear enough idea of how the diplomatic initiative is progressing.

However, it seems to me that as time goes by, all of us prepare new policies and we must discuss various aspects. We postponed the summit because of several basic factors. One of these was to give the U.S. Administration more time. I was in favor of postponing the summit for a little while, but that was not possible due to the schedules of the presidents and foreign ministers. I think the delay has allowed us to exchange points of view with many of them. The second factor is that the meetings we held in Caracas with a number of heads of state—such as Felipe Gonzalez, Daniel Ortega, Fidel Castro, Sarney, and so forth—and many foreign ministers—such as the foreign ministers of Mexico, of Venezuela, and many more—helped us prepare some of our ideas with the participation of many Latin American and European countries.

And finally, we also had a letter from Mr Perez de Cuellar. As interesting as it was, it was a very complicated document that concerned the mechanisms of verification. We just got back from New York where we met with him and discussed this with him and other UN experts in order to clarify and see how we can make this plan, which might bring a certain tranquillity to certain areas of the region, more feasible.

Those three factors are important in order to develop clearer positions for the summit, and thus have a better chance of reaching a solution.

[Reporter] About the previous meetings [words indistinct] in an atmosphere of [words indistinct]. How would you describe the atmosphere prior to this meeting?

[Madrigal] I think it is better. I think that at least now there is more optimism as to the outcome.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister of Honduras: How was your meeting with Secretary Baker?

[Lopez] I am very pleased to have had this official meeting with the new U.S. secretary of state. We had a very calm and friendly meeting, as should be the case between two friendly countries.

[Reporter] Did you talk about the Sandinists?

[Lopez] Yes, that is a topic that always comes up in this type of meeting.

[Reporter] What does Mr Baker expect from the meeting of Central American presidents in El Salvador?

[Lopez] We did not talk about that. More than anything else, we talked about bilateral relations. I repeat: This was an official meeting with the new secretary of state. I had first met him when he had just been appointed.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister: An agreement on a verification force was reached during the meeting you held in New York. Could you tell us more about that, please?

[Lopez] Yes, that was a follow-up to what we had proposed to the UN secretary general on 30 November in Mexico. On that occasion, we discussed the technical aspects of verification, and it was decided to create a mixed commission made up of representatives from the United Nations and Central America in order to define that mechanism.

[Reporter] You have always said that Honduras needed a coercive force, a military force, to disarm the contras. Now it will not be a peace force, but an observation force. Is this enough for Honduras?

[Lopez] No, it is not enough, but we continue to support our proposal. However, this proposal does not just depend on Honduras. It must be within an international framework. This is a solution that is halfway between an observation mechanism and a mechanism with power, which could be put into place by UN organizations if Central American armed opposition groups do not cooperate.

[Reporter] Is the offer made now by Nicaragua to Honduras better for Honduras?

[Lopez] It is a unilateral offer, as President Azcona has said, in the sense that it seeks a solution to the problem of the Nicaraguan armed opposition groups that are in Honduras. The government has answered that if they want to return and accept amnesty, Honduras would be very pleased. The conditions under which they would return is something that Honduras does not interfere with because that is a Nicaraguan problem, and—according to the Esquipulas and Sapoa agreements—the parties in conflict are the ones who must resolve this.

[Reporter] Did you talk about that?

[Lopez] Yes, in part. We have talked about many topics. The topics are very complicated to discuss in 20 minutes, but we had a very fruitful meeting.

PAS-1 Satellite To Provide Regional Service

PA1102035689 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 89 p A-10

[Text] The PAS-1 satellite, launched in June 1988 by the private company Alpha Lyracom-Pan American Satellite, has a central beam that can serve Ecuadoran, Peruvian, and Bolivian domestic systems as well as regional, continental, and international communication systems.

Ivan Egas, Alpha Lyracom-Pan American Satellite's Latin American director, mentioned the advantages of communication satellite systems such as PAS-1 over other types of ground networks, especially in countries like Ecuador where the only feasible and economic way to quickly expand service to the entire country, including the Galapagos Islands, would be by installing small earth stations with access to powerful satellites such as PAS-1.

Egas noted that one of the benefits of joining the satellite information system would be to have access to isolated rural areas, which would allow these areas to be incorporated into the entire country. Television systems could then be designed to provide service to the entire country. This would also allow the establishment of bidirectional voice-data subcarriers, among other things.

The system to provide these services, Egas added, could be installed in a few hours and with little effort. This could be used in case of natural disasters or for use by military services; oil, agricultural, or mining companies; or industrial enterprises.

In the almost 8 months that the PAS-1 satellite has been in service, there has been coordination with the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Peru, and Chile. Several other European and South American countries, such as France and Argentina, are expected to join the system shortly.

On 4 January, Pan American Satellite signed a contract to provide service in Latin America for the Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (CNN).

As for Ecuador, the Foreign Relations and Education Ministries, the National Communications Secretariat, and the Ecuadoran Telecommunications Institute's interest in improving and modernizing the country's telecommunications systems is well-known. To implement these improvements, Egas said, it would be advisable to thoroughly analyze the PAS-1 satellite system.

The satellite transponders whose beams are centered on Ecuador could be the basis for an improvement in the Ecuadoran communications system until the subregional Simon Bolivar satellite plan becomes a reality.

On 15 June 1988, an Arianne rocket was launched from Kourou, French Guiana to place the PAS-1 satellite into orbit. PAS-1 immediately began to provide information service to the world, mainly to Latin America, through its 24 transponders that are used for direct communications.

The satellite has three beams for the Americas: one for Central American and Caribbean countries, Colombia, and Venezuela; another for Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia; and a third for Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

According to Latin America project director Ivan Egas, the satellite is in a geostationary orbit at a longitude of 45 degrees west. This orbit is set at an earth station in Miami, which provides monitoring and control services in coordination with installations in Atlanta.

According to a report from Fred Landman, one of the company's executives, at least three South American countries—Chile, Ecuador, and Venezuela—are on a list of countries that might use the PAS-1 to transmit data. The member companies of this program are: Via Trans-Radio Chilena-VTR of Chile; Leasing del Pacifico of Ecuador; and Summa Corporacion of Venezuela.

Cuba

Foreign Minister Comments on Ties With U.S.

PA1102202189 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said in Havana that normal relations with the United States depend on Washington accepting the fact that Cuba is an independent country that is not prepared to obey U.S. dictates or to make political concessions to establish those relations.

Malmierca held a news conference with approximately 50 Ecuadoran newsmen visiting Cuba. The foreign minister said that once the United States accepts this view, the two countries could discuss important problems. These would include, according to Malmierca, the blockade Cuba has been enduring for almost 30 years and the illegal occupation, against the wishes of the Cuban Government and people, of Cuban territory—that is, the area where the Guantanamo Naval Base is located.

Commentary on Aronson Appointment, Policies

PA0902200189 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 89

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] After several days of serious disagreements over who should fill the vacancy, Democrat Bernard Aronson was appointed new U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, a post in which his predecessor, Elliott Abrams, was so harshly criticized.

While discussion of the appointment ended after recently appointed Secretary of State James Baker revealed the name of his assistant, negative comments concerning Aronson's background were incessant, both on the Republican and the Democratic side.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported recently that some U.S. congressmen believe that Secretary of State Baker favored Aronson because Republican congressmen could not agree on other candidates likely to win the appointment. Given that Aronson's appointment has already been made, we would do well to remember that the ever-present Central American conflict and the situation in Latin America in general will be matters handled by this State Department official who has aroused so much suspicion.

While on the topic of Central America, we should perhaps add that it is because of his views on Central America that Aronson is so controversial. It is a well-known fact in Washington political circles that Aronson has been a staunch defender of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. It is also well known that in opposing the Nicaraguan Government, Bernard Aronson helped the White House under the Reagan administration draft a plan to support the now ailing bands of counterrevolutionaries. This was at a time when the United States intensified its efforts to smother the Sandinist revolution.

A number of Democratic congressmen opposed to the war in Central America have not forgotten that it was Aronson who drafted the speech delivered by President Reagan before the U.S. Congress in 1986, in which he sought the votes necessary to get approval for a military aid package worth $100 million for the Somozist bands. No doubt Central America is a particularly sensitive area of controversy for the new Republican administration. According to some political observers, the Bush administration needs to develop a bipartisan policy toward such a fragile geographic zone.

The question arises whether, in spite of his background, Aronson could rethink his position and be of use to the Bush administration, which has been called pragmatic by certain media and praised for showing an amount of caution which the preceding administration lacked. Meanwhile, various U.S. sectors are urging the formulation of a definitive strategy toward Latin America that recognizes that the policy of military and economic pressure has been a failure.

Reelection to UN Decolonization Committee Noted

FL0902211789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2045 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cuba has been reelected as vice president of the UN Decolonization Committee, said Oscar Oramas Olivas, Cuba's permanent delegate to the United Nations.

The official said that the international community's decision to reelect Cuba to that important position acknowledges the role played by the Caribbean island in the struggle for the liberation of nations.

Orama said that the election is an honor for the Cuban internationalist combatants who have written glorious pages in history, such as the one of Cuito Cuanavale, which made the South African racists accept the application of Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence.

The Cuban diplomat said that the decolonization committee will continue its labors until every colonial territory, including Puerto Rico, is free.

More on Visit by Bulgaria's Lukanov, Delegation

Robotics Laboratory Toured

FL0902185189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] A few hours ago, a robotics laboratory at the Institute of Cybernetics, Mathematics, and Physics was inaugurated in Havana as part of the cooperation program of the 20th session of the Cuba-Bulgaria intergovernmental commission.

The purpose of the laboratory is to generalize robotics throughout the country. The robotics system will begin with education and then be introduced into industry.

The laboratory has 22 scientists who plan to construct 25 systems this year for robotics education in pre-university and technological schools throughout the country. It has two areas: One is dedicated to robots used in the industrial paint industry and the other is for robots that manipulate parts.

The laboratory was inaugurated by Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo, and Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo.

The delegation attending the 20th session of the Cuba-Bulgaria intergovernmental commission this afternoon also visited the center that produces and exports electronic technology. The group received a briefing on the operations of this center and later toured the installation.

Protocol Signed; Esquivel Cited

FL1002153289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The 20th meeting of the Cuba-Bulgaria intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation has ended with the signing of a protocol and other documents at the EXPOCUBA assembly room in Havana. Andrey Lukanov and Antonio Esquivel, heads of the delegations of their respective countries and vice presidents of the Councils of Ministers of Bulgaria and Cuba, signed the protocol. Pedro Miret, member of the PCC Politburo, and Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade of Cuba, attended the event.

Esquivel said: This meeting was very important because the interests and wishes of the two countries have been determined with the joint work of Cubans and Bulgarians. This will enable us to continue with the ever-increasing multiphase development of relations. Lukanov, vice minister of economic relations of Bulgaria [title as heard], expressed his personal appreciation and that of those accompanying him for the shows of friendship and warm atmosphere created so they could work pleasantly.

Tours Holguin Province

FL1102155989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations, has visited Holguin Province. Lukanov, who is also chairman of the Cuba-Bulgaria Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, was accompanied by Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Marcos Lage, minister of the steelworking industry.

Upon their arrival at Frank Pais Airport in Holguin, the delegation was received by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC in Holguin Province.

Lukanov and his companions toured the "Heroes del 26 de Julio" agricultural implements combine. They later placed a floral wreath at the Major General Calixto Garcia Inez mausoleum.

The Holguin government body decided to give Lukanov the Holguin Hatchet, symbol of the territory.

Soviet Embassy Official Notes Increased Trade

FL1102140089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Trade between Cuba and the USSR has increased 52 times since it began. This statement was made in Havana by (Pyor Kormilisin), adviser for economic and trade affairs of the Soviet Embassy.

The official said that economic cooperation between the two countries includes more than 600 products from almost all areas. (Kormilisin) said that the USSR last year exported to Cuba products valued at 4.4 million rubles. In turn, he added, the USSR imported products from Cuba valued at 4 million rubles.

Some of the products Cuba imports from the USSR are oil, raw materials, machinery, and food. Cuba principally exports sugar, citrus, nickel, and coffee to the USSR.

Socialist Womens' Meeting Ends; Espin Awarded

FL0902143789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The Friendship Order conferred by the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been presented to Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]. The decoration ceremony took place within the framework of the meeting of presidents of womens' organizations at the Palace of Conventions, which has ended.

[Name indistinct], president of the Lao Womens Federation, presented the order to her Cuban counterpart. Our country's womens' federation was also decorated. The two awards were conferred on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the revolution.

Vilma Espin expressed her appreciation for the gesture of the Lao brothers:

[Begin Espin recording] We see this as a new symbol of friendship that links the Lao and Cuban people, especially their women. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

New Vatican Pro Nuncio Arrives in Havana

FL1002143589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Msgr Faustino Saenz Munoz, new Holy See pro nuncio to Cuba, has arrived in Havana. Upon his arrival, Msgr Saenz Munoz said: There is a good sign for my mission in the way the authorities have welcomed me to the country.

Castro's Venezuela Trip: 'Meeting of Hope'

FL1102173089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1521 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Report by (Helio Ortega Vasquez)]

[Text] This week, Channel 6 [Havana Television Cubana Network] has offered programs on the visit Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made to Venezuela, where he attended the ceremonies for the presidential inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez.

These programs have allowed us to appreciate, through direct images, the love and admiration that the Venezuelan people honestly feel for Fidel, as well as the Venezuelan people's interest in knowing the truth about Cuba.

Another aspect that we are aware of, which is still no less moving, is our identification with Latin America. Our similarities and common desires are based on indigenous, black, Spanish, and Portuguese roots, which have created the people that populate Latin America.

The visit that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made to Venezuela, of which we have seen different aspects this week on Channel 6, could be described as a meeting of hope. The Latin American representatives that went to Caracas, despite their different philosophies, stressed the things that unite us and make us similiar with the very Christian and also very Marxist purpose of creating a world of peace, justice, and democracy, where man is brother to his fellow man, not (?his slave).

Fidel's presence in Venezuela is a new expression of the willingness of the peoples of the continent to rediscover Cuba and to end the isolation ordered by Washington.

Cargo Ship's Collision at Sea Leaves 3 Missing

FL1002192589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The Cuban cargo ship "Capitan San Luis" of the Caribbean Navigation Enterprise and the Liberian passenger ship "Celebration" collided at 0547 today. The accident occurred at latitude 21 degrees, 6 minutes north and longitude 75 degrees, 13 minutes west; that is, 30 miles west of Moa. The Cuban ship sank as a result of the collision. Three of its 45 crew members are missing. They are Manuel Velasco Morales, captain of the "San Luis," and Antonio Campo del los Reyes and Ivan Freire Diaz, supervisors of the Caribbean Navigation Enterprise.

The Cuban ship, which was used to transport cement, left Havana and was bound for the Canary Islands, where it was scheduled to undergo repairs. Rescue forces from the Border Guard Troops, the Navy, and our merchant marine continue to search for the three missing men.

Castro Telephones Injured

FL1102125089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The search continues this morning for three Cubans missing since yesterday's collision between the merchant ship "Capitan San Luis" and the U.S. passenger ship "Celebration," which was sailing under a Liberian flag.

The tragic event occurred about 30 miles north of Holguin Province when the Cuban ship was violently hit by the bow of the "Celebration."

The missing Cubans are the ship's captain, Manuel Velasquez Morales, and engineer-supervisors Antonio Campos de los Reyes and Ivan Frei de Diaz, all of Havana City. [all names as heard]

Twelve other Cubans were also injured in the collision, one of whom is in serious condition. The injured are being treated at the Moa Hospital. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro telephoned yesterday to find out each person's condition.

The remaining 45 crew members are safe, but the Cuban ship sank in waters 2,000-3,000 meters deep.

It was reported that a commission of high-level nautical officials has been created to evaluate the causes of the collision and to determine who was responsible.

Lack of Navigation Lights Alleged

FL1102130289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] A Cuban concrete hauler was sliced in half by a cruiseliner yesterday. Four of the 46 Cuban crew members are missing. The rest were rescued by the cruiseliner, the "Celebration." There is no immediate report on how the accident occurred. The cruiseliner's owners charged that the Cuban vessel did not have any navigation lights.

Helmsman Interviewed

FL1102191589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Report by (Ricardo Gual Hernandez)]

[Text] At the conclusion of this newscast, we have received the testimony of the helmsman of the "Capitan San Luis," the Cuban ship that was involved in an accident at sea.

We are reporting directly from the Pedro Soto Alva Hospital in Moa. Those who received minor injuries in the collision of the "Capitan San Luis" have been released and are returning to their homes, along with the rest of the crew.

The only person who remains hospitalized is helmsman (Ramon Laera Frometa), who is recovering in satisfactory condition after he had a leg amputated below the knee.

[Begin recording] [(Gual Hernandez)] As helmsman of the "Capitan San Luis," you are an exceptional witness to the accident. How do you remember it?

[(Laera Frometa)] [video shows man from waist up, laying in hospital bed] I remember that it was about 0530, 0540. We warned the ship. I don't remember right now what flag it was flying. We tried to signal it to see if it could move [words indistinct].

[(Gual Hernandez)] Did you give it a signal?

[(Laera Frometa)] Yes, we gave it a signal.

[(Gual Hernandez)] What kind of a signal did you give it?

[(Laera Frometa)] We blasted our horn and we changed the direction we were on. We changed the route we were on to our [word indistinct] band.

We also flashed our green light so that the other ship would give us his green light, but he didn't do it. The ship proceeded with its red light on.

We became aware that there was going to be a collision. We kept on signaling to them that there was going to be a collision but they did not respond to our signal.

[(Gual Hernandez)] How do you feel now after the operation?

[(Laera Frometa)] I'm very well. The attention that I have received from the comrades of this hospital has been very good. I have no complaints. The work they have done has been very good.

[(Gual Hernandez)] Is your family here with you?

[(Laera Frometa)] Yes, my brother is here at my side. He (?was notified) yesterday of this catastrophe and he arrived in Havana today. My mother and another brother are also here from Guantanamo.

[(Gual Hernandez)] Cuban authorities are continuing their rigorous investigation into the matter. [end recording]

PCC, State Economic Cadres End Meeting

FL0902150589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Economic cadres of the PCC and state have ended a 2-day meeting in Havana. Matters related to improving methods and organization of the management system of the economy were discussed during the meeting.

A good part of yesterday's session was devoted to discussing what are called secondary productions. Lionel Soto, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, said: We are not adequately maximizing the secondary potential of raw materials. Soto noted that aside from objective limitations, high-demand goods can be produced with resources that are sometimes wasted. Soto also said that poorly managed raw material remnants and waste encourage illegal commerce and contribute to the country's lack of financial balance.

Planning for 1991 Pan-American Games Continues

FL0902163889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cuba has stated that the next Pan-American Games here will be modest but adequate. This is what was said by Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez, chairman of the organizing committee for the 1991 games. Fernandez said construction projects and the competition program will have to be completed this year.

He asserted that Cuba is not looking to do business with television broadcasts but if the contracts are fulfilled, part of the expenses will be covered. The Cuban minister confirmed that all installations had been planned, with or without Pan-American Games.

Labor Infractions in Holguin Province Reported

FL1002041189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0056 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Technicians and specialists of the Holguin delegation of state inspection have proven the existence of more than 9,000 infractions in the present labor legislation, as well as in protection in enterprises of national subordination [empresas de subordinacion nacional] and entities of the people's government.

In the 552 visits made, the specialists noted an excess of 46,000 pesos in salary payments, said Jorge Hernandez, member of that delegation and of the Social Security of Holguin.

In the first visit, the investigations were to check the construction systems made by agreement of payment [sistema de pago por acuerdo a la construccion], the organizing of jobs and salaries in the industry, transportation, and communication sectors, and services, forms, and salaries used in budgeted units.

Men Arrested for Watch Speculation, Hoarding

FL0902154089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Members of the department against economic crimes have arrested citizens Jose Ignacio Montero Fernandez, resident of 404 Esperanza Street, and Humberto Moreno Isla, who lives at 656 Monte Street in the Habana Vieja Municipality. They were engaged in the speculation and hoarding of digital watches.

After searching the home of Moreno Isla, who acted as middleman, the police seized 208 (Pasia) watches. The police found 2,100 pesos at the home of Montero Fernandez, who is the main defendant. The money comes from the sale of the goods, which amounted to 13,540 pesos. The PNR [National Revolutionary Police] added that the two accused men were taken to the first municipal unit of the PNR in Habana Vieja, where they confessed their involvement in the crimes and were charged. They will appear before a tribunal, which will hear the case and sanction them according to our Penal Code.

Comparison of Castro's Venezuela News Conference

PA1002214489

Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 10 February carries "part one" of the news conference held by Fidel Castro in Caracas, Venezuela on 4 February. The Cubavision version has been compared to the Television Cubana version published in the 10 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 2, and has been found to be identical, permitting the following fills and clarifications:

Page 2, column one, last paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...support the idea.

[Colmenares] Could we interpret President Perez' statement as a call... (supplying indistinct words, rewording).

Column two, paragraph five, sentence two, make read: ...which you have led. Venezuela has been... (supplying indistinct word)

Same paragraph, last sentence, Cubavision version reads: ...that movement?

[Castro] Cuba's cooperation is almost unnecessary. Venezuela has much... (providing alternate wording).

Page 3, column one, last paragraph, sentence seven, make read: ...I was not even thinking about Cuba... (clearing queried word)

Page 6, column two, paragraph six, sentence three, made read: ...They fought alone. They were not a group of countries fighting for their... (providing alternate wording)

Page 7, column one, paragraph seven, sentence two, Cubavision version reads: Why was the subject of integration practically absent from a very superficial declaration on the Andino Pact, which Cuba, of course, has nothing to do with. (clearing queried word, providing alternate wording)

Page 9, column one, paragraph two, last sentence, make read: ...had rifles with telescopic sights, poison. (supplying indistinct word, rewording)

Same column, paragraph five, first sentence, Cubavision version reads: ...there was a manhunt. The great welcome... (providing alternate wording)

Page 10, column one, paragraph five, antepenultimate sentence, Cubavision version reads: ...world into misery. If this exists, then this cannot be an ideal system. There is a crisis in the capitalist and imperialist system. Look at the conditions it has produced in the world. (providing alternate wording)

same column, paragraph six, sentence five, Cubavision version reads: ...buy our cocoa, fibers, and basic products, as... (supplying indistinct word)

Column two, paragraph two, sentence six, Cubavision version reads: ...this supposed crisis. It is being presented as a definite and... (providing indistinct word)

Page 11, column two, first paragraph, third sentence, Cubavision version reads: ...that there are statesmen who are much... (supplying alternate wording)

Same column, paragraph two, first sentence, make read: ...emerged, after the Paris Commune, after the October... (supplying indistinct words)

Page 13, column two, paragraph seven, first sentence, Cubavision version reads: ...accusations against us? Is it the people who fight apartheid, hunger, poverty in the world, injustice in the world, and colonialism? No, it is the enemies of the people who struggle against us. They make those accusations... (supplying alternate wording)

Page 14, column one, paragraph five, sentence eight, Cubavision version reads: ...torturers? I wonder if they are the ones who didn't believe the lies. Unfortunately, not everyone chose not to believe. Many did believe... (supplying indistinct words, alternate wording)

Column two, paragraph two, sentence six, Cubavision version reads: ...by anyone. But we invited Amnesty International as well as U.S. institutions that... (supplying indistinct words, alternate wording)

Page 15, column one, paragraph five, penultimate sentence, make read: ...counterrevolution precisely to prevent violence and torture. (clearing queried word)

Haiti

Government Forum on Elections Opens 9 Feb

FL1002170589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The national forum to create the institution to organize and supervise electoral operations in Haiti opened this morning. Work began this morning at the Legislative Palace. The first few hours of this forum were devoted to forming a definitive bureau [biro], which will be made up of a president, a secretary general, and a reporter.

Political figures such as Wisler Pierre-Louis, Francois Latortue, Lamartiniere Honorat, Marc Bazin, and Jocelyn Beauchard were proposed as president of the definitive bureau. However, among all those nominated, only Beauchard and Pierre-Louis did not decline the honor of leading the discussions.

Following numerous differences in point of view on the matter, a two-member provisional bureau decided to call for a vote on the matter. Finally, Wisler Pierre-Louis was elected president of the definitive bureau. Pierre-Louis received 22 votes out of a possible 28. Three people abstained.

The secretary general is now being elected. Once the forum's definitive bureau is formed, President Avril will officially open the discussions. This forum's discussions are to result in the creation of an institution in charge of organizing elections nationwide.

We have a reporter on site, and perhaps we will have his account before the end of this newscast. We remind listeners that this forum is being carried live. You can watch the work of the forum over the government television station.

It is now 1246 and 57 seconds.

Committee President Elected

FL1002171389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Before repeating the headlines developed during this midday newscast, we are going to hear from Mobile Unit 20, which is covering the forum at the Legislative Palace. Mobile 20? [passage omitted]:

[Mobile 20 reporter] The work of the forum has still not begun. They are at present electing [break in transmission] and the president of the Party of National Unity for Development, Mr Wisler Pierre-Louis, has been elected president of the committee.

At present, the secretary general is being elected. There are two young candidates. One is from the Charlemagne Peralte National Liberation Front. The other is a member of Thomas J. Arnold's National Party of Authentic Workers [Parti National des Travailleurs Authentiques].

There are 28 political and socioprofessional organizations attending the government's forum at the Legislative Palace. The forum is on the organization of an electoral institution called CEDHA [Electoral College of Haiti]. [passage omitted]

There is a strong police presence inside the Legislative Palace and in the area. A (?large number) of security (?troops) have been (?deployed).

Also present at the Legislative Palace is the entire cabinet. I am looking at Information Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre and Agriculture Minister Frederic Agenor. All the ministers are present right now at the Legislative Palace. [passage omitted]

We will call you again shortly, as soon as the work of the forum begins.

This is Mobile Unit 20.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mobile Unit 20. Absent from this forum are Sylvio Claude's PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], Gerard Philippe Auguste's MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country], Hubert de Ronceray's MDN [Mobilization for National Development], and the Haitian Human Rights League, which was to have participated in the forum but which yesterday announced that it was withdrawing because of the arrest of Rockefeller Guerre.

Avril Addresses Opening

FL1102170389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Twenty-eight leaders of political parties, union organizations, and socioprofessional organizations are participating in the forum organized by the government with a view to creating an institution responsible for organizing elections nationwide. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, was present at the opening of the forum, a forum which, according to Prosper Avril, represents a true turning point in the history of Haiti, a point of departure for the process of transition toward a constitutional government.

[Begin Avril recording] This forum constitutes a turning point in our history. For the first time, a military government sets aside its exclusive prerogatives to lead the country by unilaterally issued decrees and requests, in order to make its decisions, the opinions of those directly concerned: political parties, union organizations, and socioprofessional organizations.

The government is thus counting on the effectiveness of the spirit of dialogue that it has established since 17 September 1988, so that from your deliberations will come recommendations that will be in harmony with the expectations of our compatriots.

We are convinced that only feasible institutional structures can ensure the irreversibility of the process that we are going to (?attempt). Let us therefore act responsibly. Let us produce something solid and durable for the Haitian people, which must have its confidence in its elites restored in its quest for a more just and unified society. [end recording]. [passage omitted]

Gonaives Situation Updated; Drivers Strike

FL1002173689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] We are going to see how things are. Our Gonaives correspondent Bredy Delva is going to tell us how things are going in Gonaives:

[Delva] The call for a general strike for 8 and 9 February made by several political leaders with a view to boycotting the national forum was respected in Gonaives yesterday only in regard to transportation in the metropolitan area.

Schools, commerce, and public offices were all closed in conformity with the military government's decree. Thus we cannot estimate the success or failure of the strike called by the political leaders.

Today it looks as if the government communique declaring a holiday on 8 February is still in effect. Not a single student headed for school this morning; the communal marketplace is not operating; and commerce is paralyzed. However, unlike Wednesday, today there are old tires burning all over the place in Gonaives, especially in Raboteau, which is cut off from the rest of town because area residents removed all the bridges linking Raboteau to Gonaives. [passage omitted]

Also, at 1000 yesterday the Federation of Gonaives Students [Federasyon Elev Gonaives], FEG, held a news conference to explain to all the students present about the $500, the 2,500 gourdes, that Information and Coordination Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre gave the federation. The FEG sports section (?had asked for the money) so it could hold a tournament in all sports disciplines for all the schools. Unfortunately, because of technical difficulties we cannot play an excerpt of this news conference for you.

Finally, yesterday morning three armed individuals grabbed a driver and beat him. These armed civilians then took the driver to the Toussaint Louverture Barracks.

Out of solidarity with the victimized driver, the other drivers used tap-taps [public transportation vehicles] to form a sort of barricade across the street that runs in front of the barracks. Thus the district's commanding officer was obliged to release the driver who was arrested by these three unidentified armed civilians yesterday morning at around 1030.

In view of this criminal act, public transportation vehicle drivers in Gonaives have decided to go on a strike of undetermined duration until their colleagues obtain justice.

This is Bredy Delva, RTNH, Gonaives.

Petit Goave Public Transport 'Paralyzed' 9 Feb

FL1002174689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report by Petit Goave correspondent Leonard Felix Beauvais]

[Text] The schools were not open today in Petit Goave. We don't know if this was because of the call for a general strike or because there are only 2 school days left this week.

However, life is not paralyzed in Petit Goave. The public offices opened, as did several stores and many small grocery stores. We point out that although it is doing so timidly, the public marketplace is nevertheless functioning this morning.

We also point out, however, that public transportation is totally paralyzed because of flaming barricades across National Highway No 2 and in several parts of town. However, we cannot echo those who say that the town of Petit Goave is in flames, because we have not verified this.

This is Leonard Felix Beauvais in Petit Goave for RTNH.

9 Feb Strike's Success in Provinces Noted

FL1102164589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the capital, yesterday's strike was partially observed. However, school activity was totally paralyzed. Public transportation operated at a slowdown. There was a slowdown in commercial activity as well.

This strike was called to demand the resignation of General Prosper Avril and was most closely adhered to in the provinces, especially in Gonaives, Les Cayes, Thiotte, and La Gonave.

In Cap-Haitien, adherence to the strike was evident mostly in the schools, which were not open at all. Public transportation exhibited a considerable slowdown. Also, the police dispersed a group of people who had taken to the streets after a basketball game, chanting slogans against the Avril government.

In Fort Liberte in northeastern Haiti, the scene was pretty much the same. Schools were closed and there was a considerable slowdown in public transportation.

In Port-de-Paix in northwestern Haiti, schools and public transportation were the sectors that most adhered to the strike.

In Thiotte, as our correspondent just said, the strike was observed to a degree of 95 percent.

In Gonaives, the situation was somewhat different. According to our correspondent, the strike was more closely adhered to in Gonaives. He also told us that the police intervened vigorously in the Raboteau and Lot Bo Kanal areas, where there were flaming tires in all the streets and where barricades had been erected.

In Saint-Marc, [correspondent] (Fernand Bion) says the strike affected mostly the schools and public transportation.

The same was true for Hinche, in the central plateau, where the schools were closed yesterday.

In Cabaret, where there was no school, activity became normal at midday, after a certain calm noticeable in the morning.

In Jacmel, school activity was paralyzed. Also, there was a certain amount of slowdown in all other activities.

In Les Cayes, the strike was more broadly adhered to, according to our correspondent, who also told us that there was a crime committed in the Les Anglais area, near Saint Louis du Sud.

On La Gonave [island], the strike was respected to a degree of 80 percent, our correspondent said.

In Petit Goave, the strike was also observed. Also, more than 400 people demonstrated against Gen Prosper Avril's government.

Public Prosecutor Threatened Over Arrests

FL1002185089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois) went before the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince yesterday; however, they are still being kept in jail. We have learned that they are supposed to go before a judge today.

One of our reporters, Colette Lespinasse, chatted with lawyer Ernest Malebranche, one of the defense lawyers. Let's listen to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Lespinasse] Engineer Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois) are still in prison. They appeared before the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince this morning. This office referred the case to an examining magistrate. The doyen of the civil court, who was to convey the dossier to an examining magistrate for the necessary follow-up, was not present when the dossier arrived at the Law Courts. Someone told us they will perhaps open the dossier tomorrow.

According to Ernest Malebranche, one of the defense lawyers, he and other lawyers appeared before the Office of the Public Prosecutor this morning to find out why these men were being accused. One of the dossiers says it is because it is they who sent people to set a bomb at the Ciment d'Haiti's reviewing stand on the Champ de Mars; and they [not further identified] say that they will give the names of the witnesses who are to testify by either Easter or Trinity Sunday.

Mr Malebranche finds that these things have no basis in the law. He also said that he went to prison and saw the men, and that their morale is good. [passage omitted]

For his part, Public Prosecutor Jacaman Charles says that he has been threatened by one of the defense lawyers. He says that the role of the Office of the Public Prosecutor is to serve as go-between for the Justice Department. It is the judge who is responsible for trying the case:

[Charles] They sent a person here to the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the first thing the person and his lawyer did was to pressure the public prosecutor, saying to him—and the public must be made aware of this—that the chair in which the prosecutor was sitting might turn into fire under him; that he had noted the prosecutor's name; that he had an account to settle with the prosecutor; and that he had the names of everyone with whom he had an account to settle—for when the people's tribunals were operating.

We are making this statement for the information of the nation and the entire world!

[First unidentified reporter] Who said this to you?

[Charles] We are making this statement for the ears of the nation and the entire world!

[Second unidentified reporter] But Mr Charles, why would they say such a thing to you?

[Charles] To pressure the public prosecutor, so that the public prosecutor would become afraid and release them!

[Lespinasse] Mr Malebranche says he doesn't know anything about these threats. He doesn't know if anything happened while he was not present.

We point out that the other people they are accusing in connection with the placing of a bomb on the Champ de Mars, and for whom they have issued arrest warrants, were not present this morning at the Office of the Public Prosecutor. [end recording]

CATH's Mesyeux Refutes Bombing Allegations

FL1002191789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] Executive Secretary Jean Auguste Mesyeux, who is being sought by the police in connection with the bomb that the police claim exploded on the Champ de Mars on Sunday 5 February, calls this bomb business a true masquerade. He thinks it is a pretext they invented in order to be able to organize repression against the popular movement.

[Begin Mesyeux recording] They named Jean Auguste Mesyeux and Gabriel Miracle, who have nothing to do with such a masquerade, who believe in the force of organization and in the force of the Haitian people, and who also believe (?that) all organizations with capability and credibility (?should) help the population struggle for the changes it wants. I myself had said the country was in mourning and that Carnival was inappropriate. But the man of the people is attached to his traditions. Therefore, Carnival 1989 should be a carnival against General Prosper Avril, a carnival in which the Haitian people should express their misery, their mourning, and all their tribulations.

Since the Haitian people want their Carnival, give it to them; but it is not a Carnival in which the Haitian people should rejoice.

Jean Robert Champagne, whom I know was involved in the Eddy Moyse affair, left Haiti 2 years ago. Idli Cameau has been in Martinique for more than a week.

We were very shocked to see the government issue a communique saying not only that they had arrested these two citizens [Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois)] but that there were other people for whom they were still looking, and that these people had allegedly participated in this business of a bomb. [passage omitted]

Everyone knows what happened on 21 November and 17 January [days of general strike called by CATH], where the government had to back off. I think this is more important than going and setting a bomb. That wouldn't accomplish anything. What connection is there between that and the organizations struggling for change? Besides, all the experience that the population has acquired is not in making bombs or in setting Molotov cocktails. It lies in the unity of all the organizations that are struggling on behalf of the Haitian people.

They [not further identified] so greatly disregard the Haitian people that while all this is happening in Haiti, the big imperialist countries are plotting to send Manigat back to Haiti, as if Manigat were a (?constitutional) government and only he could save Haiti. Thus, many people—well, not many, but some people—believe in Santa Claus—the people who do not believe in real change.

The government has the audacity to lie about a number of citizens; however, the police have never been able to catch the thieves constantly being denounced—who wear Army uniforms and who carry heavy-caliber weapons every night, who break into pawnshops and steal jewelry, who break into little grocery stores, who fire upon both 2- and 3-year-olds and adults, who commit brigandage. The Justice Ministry does not have eyes with which to detect the assassins of Jean-Rabel, on 29 November; of Labadie, on 17 September at Saint Jean Bosco [date as heard]; [words indistinct] assassins of 26 April.

The government is planning to exile us, as if this country were not our country! [passage omitted] The government can't do anything about the 50,000 people living in the streets, yet it can organize networks of spies and informers.

In this second mobilization, the Haitian people are not willing to surrender. They are not willing to back off before the enemy.

And woe to little flunky politicians, traditional politicians, who think they can catch a free ride on the coattails of the Haitian people so they can settle their personal business. [end recording]

Father Aristide Issues Statement on Arrests

FL1102165689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Father Jean Bertrand Aristide is calling for the release of Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois). He demands the dismantling of the plot to kill Father Jean Pierre-Louis, Chavannes Baptiste (?of the) MPP [Papaye Peasants Movement], and all the other people named in the Saint-Pierre memorandum: Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Gabriel Miracle, Eddy Volel, and others.

In his message, Father Aristide also says that a country that lives in immorality is condemned to be bathed in blood. The priest asks what moral lesson General Avril can give the youth of Haiti (?if) he protects criminals and persecutes innocents:

[Begin Aristide recording] A country wallowing in immorality is condemned to be bathed in blood. The more immorality there is, the more blood flows.

Gen Avril, what moral lesson are you giving the nation's youth when you protect the criminals responsible for the massacres, Franck Romain's bloodthirsty thugs, and the 11 September murderers, while declaring war on the innocent? Don't you see that your position invites the youth of Haiti to yell: Long live criminals. Down with all morals?

Even if people say that morality in politics does not exist, your government has no right to sacrifice the nation's youth on the alter of immorality, which is already reddened with the blood of innocents.

Today it is in the name of simple moral common sense that I am taking up the Haitian people's cry and, before the entire world, calling for:

1. The release of Eng Rockefeller and Dr (Sylvain Jolibois);

2. The dismantling of the death plot you [nou] have prepared against Father Jean Pierre-Louis, the small grassroots parishes, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the MPP, and so forth;

3. The dismantling of the plot you have unleashed to persecute Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Gabriel Miracle, Eddy Volel, and so forth.

General, the Haitian people say to you: Au revoir. I say to you: Bon voyage. [end recording]

People's Forum Held 5-7 Feb; Resolutions Noted

FL1002172389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Parallel to the Carnival festivities, there was a forum held this week that was organized by several associations in Haiti, such as the APN [People's National Assembly], CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers], ZEL [Students Affairs], COH [Haitian Workers Committee], and so forth. This forum was held last 5, 6, and 7 February at the headquarters of a drivers union on Rue des Miracles. [passage omitted]

Mr Francois Pierre-Louis, one of the principal organizers of this forum, said in an interview he granted us during the forum's opening session that no promise made to the popular sector by the government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril had been respected.

Several resolutions were adopted by the forum. Several matters were discussed, including contraband, the exploitation of the Haitian people by the dominant class, and the problems of health, the high cost of living, and unemployment, which are very serious in Haiti. [passage omitted]

No elections can solve the problems the Haitian people are currently confronting, Francois Pierre-Louis said.

Other points in the resolution adopted were: (?that it was) a priority for (?there to also be) a people's government in order to rationally organize the nation's production; (?the need for) agrarian reform; (?the need to) establish justice for all citizens; (?the need to) reduce unemployment; (?the need to) provide education and health care for all.

The people's government [pouvwa popile] is also going to struggle against all forms of imperialist interference in Haiti's internal affairs. Thus, all kinds of security measures might be taken with a view to guaranteeing the proper unfolding of the activities carried out by the people's organizations here in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Salinas' Mid-Year Visit to Venezuela Announced
PA1002132389 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by correspondent Ignacio Sachman Torres]

[Text] Caracas, 3 Feb—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will pay an official visit to Venezuela in the middle of this year. The announcement was made here today by Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana Morales.

Next week, in the meantime, officials from the two countries will begin working separately on the creation of a Mexican-Venezuelan binational commission to deal with economic and trade issues as well as with oil industry and cultural matters, which the Salinas de Gortari administration wants to strengthen, Solana said.

During his trip to Venezuela, the Mexican president will personally reiterate to President Carlos Andres Perez his interest in strengthening regional consultation and coordination.

Solana indicated that the Mexican president had sent a letter to Carlos Andres Perez in which he sets out in detail his interest in that process. "The consultation and coordination process facilitates the solution of serious problems such as the foreign debt, which is harming Latin America," Solana said.

Solana later described as being of "great interest" the proposal made by the Venezuelan president to create an agency that would buy the foreign debt from creditors to allow indebted nations to make long-term payments on their loans.

Rejection of U.S. Ambassador-Designate Urged
PA1002215889 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Feb 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Gaston Garcia Cantu: "A Black Bridge Over the Ditch"]

[Text] The United States has defined its policy toward Mexico with the appointment of its ambassador.

Neither this ambassador nor his predecessors have been true diplomats; rather, they have been agents representing the dominant interests in the U.S. Government. Therefore, they have come from the bureaucracy, press, army, and financial groups. Mexico has a list of grievances against the United States on account of its ambassadors, because they have not truly represented U.S. political principles or national interests.

John Gavin, for example, promoted conflicts, meddling in Mexico's domestic affairs and acting as a public agent for the ultraright wing in creating confrontations between the Mexican right and the state. Ambassador Pillod was more moderate than Gavin but did not reduce the pressure from the Reagan administration on our country. Now, consistent with these appointments, we have learned of the possible appointment of an agent of riots, threats, and rebellions: John Negroponte (or, in Spanish, Juan Puentenegro) [literal translation is John Black Bridge].

Having been in Vietnam and Honduras, near and far from Kissinger, close to General Haig, and quiet over the past few months, Negroponte represents an ultraright-wing policy toward Mexico, a policy the Heritage Foundation and John Gavin announced some days ago and a policy on the foreign debt that Vice President Quayle arrogantly presented in Caracas in front of Latin American presidents and diplomats.

Negroponte will direct political aggression against Mexico at a time when our country is facing social and economic peril.

He will raise an argument that the United States has not used since the days of Henry Lane Wilson: the alleged illegitimacy of the president of the republic. This is the assertion of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, according to Federico Reyes Heroles' honest testimony (those are the names involved in the dirtiest work against the Mexican state in that country: Cardenas and Reyes Heroles!).

Simple conjecture by Cardenas will become an implicit threat on Bush's agenda when Mexican affairs are discussed, thus testing our government officials' resolve.

The proof of this conclusion was noted by Reyes Heroles (LA JORNADA 31 January, page 6):

(When asked how the fraud was committed, Cuauhtemoc replied:) Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government is illegitimate. Solarz, who is seated to his right, listens. Someone compares Mexico to the Philippines. Rogers jumps and points out the differences (voting results, according to Cuauhtemoc). They discuss among themselves U.S. fears (sic) about Mexico's instability and the lack of attention the U.S. Government has given Mexico. Now Cardenas can have his cake and eat it too.

There is no case among the documents kept by the Board of Notables in Miramar that can compare with the episode Reyes Heroles so poorly described. It is more than an act of servitude and political abjection before officials who are basically responsible for the aggressions against Mexico and other peoples: it is testimony to how a group of Mexicans obsessed by power can offer arguments, judgments, and alleged evidence to a foreign government to induce it to meddle in our domestic affairs. This should not be seen as a right to express ideas. This is a case of the United States and its historical policy toward Mexico.

What, then, can we expect from William Rogers, a former secretary of state; Peter Solarz, who directed subversive activities in the Philippines (who achieved, Reyes Heroles gleefully says, "the welcoming (sic) of Corazon Aquino, [no closing quotation marks as published] as if this were an encouraging example for Cuauhtemoc's cause); Pritri, a Republican congressman; and Elliot Richardson, a former attorney for the Justice Department. In other words, these men represent U.S. political and financial interests.

It is no accident that Negroponte may be designated U.S. ambassador to Mexico after the FDN leader's quest for "moral" support from the United States; Gavin's speech; pressure from the Heritage Foundation, which is composed of businessmen who were influential in the Reagan, and now Bush, administrations; and official permission to dig a ditch on the border. Negroponte would exert diplomatic pressure consistent with U.S. ultrarightwing thought: refusing to change the conditions of the foreign debt; accusing Mexico of involvement in the drug trade, which has led to the increased consumption of drugs in the United States; and overseeing—in keeping with farming's increased value—the passage of Mexicans through the border.

Very serious problems may emerge from the ideological intolerance and political interference Bush's policies promise.

What can our country do?

In response to a policy of aggression in all fields of national life, Mexico must put aside domestic issues and confront foreign ones. The Americans would combine Mexican domestic and foreign issues to justify their intervention on the premise that Mexico's instability is caused by an illegitimate government opposed to democracy rather than increasing poverty resulting from payment of debt interest.

First, domestic issues.

The United States' primary interest lies in altering Mexico's political orientation, which was established by the 1917 Constitution.

The Mexican Government must not in any way compromise that which constitutes the state's legal and historical foundation.

There have been times of foreign threat, 1859 for example, when the United States demanded that Mexico surrender territory in the interest of U.S. commercial development. Juarez, regardless of what has been said, or not said, in history books, did not surrender "even 1 inch." That, at the time, was essential.

We are now a major country, and the world is no longer one of vast territories for foreigners' taking. Today's problem is the debt and the conditions that have resulted from the debt's interest and principal payments, which should not increase to the extent they become unpayable. Other problems have emerged from the debt issue, but they have not limited our independent development.

Complaints of Mexican and foreign businessmen appropriating resources are added to the problem caused by the conditions of the foreign debt's payment; hence, the idea of modifying Article 27 of the Constitution.

Yesterday, it was our territory. Today it is our foreign debt and resources, such as petroleum.

Whatever the challenge, there will be no concessions. We must set forth the criteria that forged the nation and the state: The country's present and future will not be mortgaged.

Painful experience has proved that Mexico's problems should not be resolved in any foreign country. If our problems are discussed abroad and if circumstantial proof of their having influenced another government's policy emerge, Point V of Article 37 of the Constitution—which deals with the loss of Mexican nationality—should, at least, be applied against the transgressors.

Now the foreign policy issue.

John Negroponte should not be approved as ambassador.

His background is not that of a diplomatic representative who would establish relations based upon equal rights and political respect.

Mexico's judgment of Negroponte should not be based solely upon his background, but upon the work of some of his predecessors.

Will there be problems with the U.S. Government if its ambassador is not accepted? Yes, but they would be minor compared to the ones that would emerge from his alleged diplomatic pursuits. We must not allow a repeat of behavior like Gavin's in Chihuahua; he caused disturbances there that led to complaints against the United States because of its interference in a strictly Mexican affair. Gavin promoted conflicts. We must not make the mistake of accepting another ambassador with personal and political ideologies that are similar to or even stronger than Gavin's.

President Bush should know, once and for all, the people against whom he has chosen to exert such unlawful pressure so adverse to the laws of social and political coexistence.

Domestic policy to strengthen foreign policy.

Unity of purpose for the good of the nation.

Prosecution of those who have forgotten they are Mexicans and broad, continuous efforts to report the facts and the danger of interference based on disinformation.

Party Leaders Comment

PA1102194989 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Feb 89 pp 1-A, 30-A

[From the "Political Fronts" column by Aurora Berdejo A.]

[Excerpts] Everyone awaits the greatest decision the foreign secretary will make in his 6-year term: the rejection of John Dimitri Negroponte's appointment as U.S. ambassador.

A report on the possibility that Negroponte might become the next U.S. ambassador to Mexico first circulated in the United States; it then spread like wildfire among Mexican politicians, government officials, academics, and journalists.

The official reports on Negroponte that were disseminated yesterday to many high-ranking political and government figures stressed that the official is believed to rank somewhere between "a spy and a professional diplomat," according to material extracted from U.S. publications. [passage omitted]

Although there is no documented proof of his interference in many events around the world, there is no doubt, according to specialists, that John Dimitri Negroponte is much more than a diplomat.

Some say he is a CIA officer or belongs to some other U.S. espionage organization, but most likely—according to the reports that were disseminated yesterday—he is part of the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau, which is one of the least known U.S. espionage organizations but perhaps the most efficient.

Negroponte was appointed ambassador to Honduras in 1981, when Nicaragua became an obsession for the Reagan administration. The fact that Negroponte specialized in a completely different area of the world did not prevent him from quickly becoming fluent in Spanish, and much less from becoming what NEWSWEEK called a U.S. "proconsul" in Honduras.

The reports on Negroponte's activities that were disseminated yesterday are longer and more detailed than what we have published here. What is more disturbing is that if Negroponte, as rumored in the United States, were to become the next ambassador to Mexico, his appointment would reflect a perception that Mexico is a problem for U.S. national security. His appointment would reflect Washington's concern and its determination to "help prevent, avoid, or overcome" problems in a country such as Mexico, in which any problems are a threat to the United States.

The PAN [National Action Party], PPS [Popular Socialist Party], and PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] have said the Mexican Government should not approve the appointment of John Negroponte as U.S. ambassador because of his involvement in activities that violated human rights.

PAN leader Luis H. Alvarez said the government has an obligation to ask the Bush administration to provide a background report on Negroponte or any other person whose accreditation is requested, as well as the right to grant or withhold consent. He said this is a matter that concerns both nations, and Washington could not impose its wishes on Mexico.

Meanwhile, PPS and PARM spokesmen called for all Mexicans to reject someone so clearly identified around the world with the implementation of policies that harm mankind.

PAN leader Alvarez noted: John D. Negroponte appears to be one of the possible successors to the current U.S. ambassador to Mexico. In light of the charges of human rights violations made against him and of his intervention in various conflicts that were condemned by the international community, the government must ask for a full report on his background. After studying this report, the government must determine whether Negroponte deserves diplomatic accreditation.

The PAN leader said the Mexican people and Government must determine whether to accept the person seeking diplomatic accreditation. He added that this is a right that must be exercised freely, so as to be sure that the person seeking the government's consent deserves it.

The PAN leader said Mexico deserves to be respected—like any other country—when it comes to the appointment and acceptance of a diplomatic representative. He added that it was up to the Mexican Government and people to demand and make sure that our respectability always comes first and foremost.

Meanwhile, the PPS spokesman pointed to the hazards and negative consequences for Mexican-U.S. relations of accepting as U.S. ambassador someone who was involved in the Irangate scandal and in the creation of the contras and who has a tarnished record from the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The PPS spokesman said it is necessary to examine Negroponte's background and to weigh all the necessary considerations before accepting his appointment. He added that the next U.S. ambassador should be someone who will foster stronger relations between Mexico and the United States, instead of someone who could try to get involved in purely domestic matters.

Salinas Cited on Pact, Joining 'Common Market'

PA0902204489 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report on statements by President Salinas de Gortari at the closing session of the 37th meeting of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs in Mexico City on 7 February; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today spoke to businessmen and told them that whoever does not support the economic pact will not be entitled to enjoy the benefits it will produce. He also confirmed that Mexico will not join a North American common market.

President Salinas told businessmen from various economic sectors that whoever does not support the government's stability and growth pact will have no right to enjoy the benefits of economic consolidation.

[Salinas] "Now, more than ever, is a time for putting aside personal interests and for working together for the well-being of the nation. Whoever does not do this now should not expect to benefit in the future from the results of a collective effort by the majority of the people."

In closing the 37th meeting of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs [CEMAI], President Salinas said that to achieve sustained development it is necessary to intensify our efforts to defeat inflation, to maintain stability, and to overcome the transition period through which the national economy is going. President Salinas also told businessmen that Mexico will not join a common market composed of the United States and Canada because Mexico prefers to base its development on a strategy open to change.

[Salinas] "Mexico will not join any bloc. On the contrary, we will expand our possibilities through various integrational strategies that are opening for us."

President Salinas added that Mexico will take advantage of the free trade agreement between the United States and Canada, the European Common Market, the Pacific Basin agreement, and Latin American cooperation mechanisms, because the development of foreign trade will not depend on isolated efforts.

The Mexican president asked the CEMAI members to promote Mexico's interest in the international market to assure economic development and to consolidate this development.

During the meeting, Juan Morales Boria, the new CEMAI president, offered the support of his organization to increase Mexican exports of manufactured goods.

Government To Emphasize Nonpetroleum Exports

PA1002022389 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 4 Feb 89 p 35

[Report by Jose Consuelos Garcia]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said Friday that the promotion of nonpetroleum exports will be a priority of his administration, adding that foreign trade will be the primary force driving Mexican economic growth.

During the closing ceremony of the National Association of Importers and Exporters (ANIERM) annual conference, the chief executive said his government would become a decisive ally of Mexican exporters. The administration will support commercial consortiums and employ the diplomatic instruments at its disposal to further the cause of Mexican businesses selling their products in international markets.

National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomex) Director Humberto Soto announced that his institution will put 31 billion pesos in financing at the disposal of exporters during 1989.

Speaking for Mexico's exporters and importers, ANIERM President Carlos Viveros called for new, separate legislation that would clarify the rules of foreign trade.

Salinas said his government was realizing a in-depth study of commercial and industrial law.

"The country can no longer tolerate restrictions or discriminatory decisions that are unjustified and act against general economic efficiency," Salinas said.

The president said Mexican industrial sectors that are still excessively protected would be gradually stripped of their protective barriers.

Addressing the other side of foreign trade, Salinas said Mexico's foreign suppliers will have to comply with the same specifications for quality, service and guarantees that govern domestic industry.

Speaking of the importance of strong services, especially in the area of transportation, Salinas said, "We are conscious of the justified demand of exporters in the area of deregulation. Without it, they could not have access to international markets on competitive terms."

PARM Deputy on Possible Expulsion of Cardenas

PA0902232389 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] In the opinion of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, PARM, the National Democratic Front, FDN, would remain united even without Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. This was stated today by PARM Deputy Ramon Garza Rodriguez in commenting on the possibility of expelling Cardenas from the political coalition. According to Garza, his party created the FDN.

[Begin Garza recording] Let us remember that the the creation of the FDN began when PARM nominated Cardenas as its candidate. As a result of this, the other parties—the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, the Popular Socialist Party, and, at the end, the Mexican Socialist Party—joined together to back PARM. [end recording]

The differences among the parties that comprise the FDN are becoming public. In the opinion of PARM, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has moved to the radical left and is trying to get PARM militants to join the Democratic Revolution Party, and this is producing a division in the FDN. This weekend, according to Garza, PARM will study the possible expulsion of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Deputy Garza was asked if the front would disintegrate if Cuauhtemoc is removed.

[Begin Garza recording] I do not think so. The FDN would definitely remain united without Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, contrary to what would happen to a new party. [end recording]

Garza is the second PARM deputy to speak against Cardenas. The first deputy to make such statements was Alberto Perez Fontecha.

Budget Secretary Rules Out Further Cuts

PA0902185089 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Feb 89 p 4

[Excerpt] According to Planning and Budget Secretary Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, there will be no further cuts in the 1989 national budget. He said that this decision has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies and is already in effect.

Zedillo Ponce de Leon, who is a member of the Polytechnical Federation of Economists [Confederacion Politecnica de Economistas], was interviewed after taking part in the celebration of the organization's 1st anniversary. He said that obtaining more resources to take care of our country's priorities "is something we would all like to see happen, but it will only be possible if we produce more and become committed to overcoming our problems." [passage omitted]

Dollar Price To Determine Peso's Rate

PA1002132589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Summary] As of 9 February, the rate of the Mexican peso to foreign currencies will be based on the price of the dollar on the international market. The Bank of Mexico stated through the official government newspaper that the objective of this measure was to maintain adequate levels of international reserves.

Costa Rica

Arias Meets FMLN Political Commission Members

PA1102172389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1117 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] San Jose, 11 Feb (EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas foresee a "great social explosion" if their proposal for postponing the 19 March presidential elections is rejected, a rebel representative announced today.

Mercedes Letona (Commander Luisa) and Jose Mario Lopez (Commander Venancio), members of the FMLN Political Commission, met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in San Jose yesterday to explain the FMLN proposal in detail. The FMLN proposal says the rebels will accept the election results if the elections are postponed until 15 September.

The FMLN delegates were satisfied over Arias' "interest" when they briefed him on details of the FMLN offer. Letona pointed out that the guerrillas had expanded their offer of a truce to 30 days before and 30 days after the elections. Letona said it was regrettable that there has been no serious discussion of the offer by her country's political parties. She charged that the parties are using the proposal to attract votes.

Asked about the possibility that the guerrilla offer will be discussed at the upcoming presidential summit, Commander Luisa said "no president has committed himself to bringing it up."

Letona insisted that if the offer is not accepted, a social explosion cannot be avoided. She asserted that the FMLN will not lay down its arms, "because the Army has not done so either" and because "that is not part of the proposal."

She said if the political parties and the Salvadoran Government agree to postpone the elections, the Democratic Convergence—the left-wing coalition the FMLN supports—would become an "absolute majority." She predicted the Democratic Convergence would win the elections if they were held in September, because the elections would be "clean."

"Our offer is an opportunity for peace," Letona added. She hopes her country's political parties will ignore the Army's refusal to accept the FMLN proposal and will decide to accept it.

Letona said the Central American presidents have been informed of the proposal presented to the Duarte government. Letona added that she hoped the Salvadoran president's colleagues intercede in favor of the FMLN proposal at the summit, scheduled for 13 and 14 February in San Salvador. The rebels believe this initiative shows the FMLN's interest in granting "concessions" to the government and Army.

According to information from humanitarian organizations, more than 70,000 people have been killed in the Salvadoran conflict, which has lasted more than 9 years.

President Outlines Austerity Measures for 1989

PA1102003889 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] President Oscar Arias has reiterated measures to reduce inflation in 1989. Ratifying the announcement made a few days ago by Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo, Arias outlined the measures to be adopted by the government to control the price hike under three main areas.

President Arias said utililty prices and tariffs will not be increased and that strict price control measures on products with prices fixed by the government will be maintained and tightened. In addition, he said, the government will severely fight speculation and hoarding, no new taxes will be levied, and tax collection procedures will be improved to collect the existing taxes more efficiently.

Measures to reduce production costs and lower inflation were also announced. The frequency and rate of small devaluations will be reduced; the monetary and credit policy will be maintained, adjusting it to the estimated inflation rate without discouraging or hampering the production process.

Customs tariffs will continue to be reduced within the program of general adjustments based on agreements with the productive sectors. The requirement of downpayments for imports will be reduced, which in turn will reduce the cost of imported raw material and the price of consumer goods. In addition, specific programs to improve efficiency and reduce production costs in the agriculture, livestock, and industrial fields will be strengthened. The government will maintain its policy of rationing public expenses, reducing the financial deficit by 8.5 billion colons to balance the budget in 1989. Expenses will be reduced by 4.2 billion colons in various government agencies, and other possible reductions in public expenditures are being studied. Real estate purchases and the construction of new buildings will be suspended; the need for any public investment will be reviewed, postponing those not classified as priorities. The government payroll will be maintained at the same level as in 1988.

You know I always think about the humble people, the workers who depend on an income they cannot adjust to their needs, those who are most deeply affected by the increase in prices, President Arias said. He added: You know my government is committed to the weak and needy. I will never abandon them, because it would be senseless to complete 4 years of government of alleged great economic, social, or political achievements if workers complain their salaries are insufficient to live

decently, he stressed. I would be truly frustrated if I failed to meet the just demands of those fellow countrymen, President Arias concluded.

EEC Aid for Border Development With Panama

PA1002214289 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Feb 89 p 5-A

[Report by Nelson Murillo]

[Text] National Planning Minister Jorge Monge said yesterday the EEC has proposed to Costa Rica and Panama a $24-million (1.927 billion colons) border development plan, which is presently under study.

Of that sum, $13 million (1.044 billion colons) will be donated by the EEC, Costa Rica and Panama will provide $7 million (562 million colons) using local labor and resources, and the remaining $4 million (321 million colons) will be secured by a foreign loan "that needs to be negotiated," Monge said.

The planning ministers of both countries are presently studying the proposal. If the proposal is endorsed, the Executive Branch will send it to Congress in June or July for ratification.

Monge said the plan's goals are to protect Friendship Park, define its limits, and administer the biological reserve area; ensure the ecological conservation on both sides of the border; and broaden the economic base of the 100 families who live along the border through strengthening the infrastrucure and granting loans to increase agricultural productivity and encourage small businesses.

This would bring about greater economic integration in the area and increased trade between Costa Rica and Panama. The minister said that in the next few weeks he will be talking with Panamanian officials on the plan's importance.

When asked about the advisability of carrying out a plan with that country, considering its present crisis, Monge gave assurances that despite conditions having changed, "efforts should be made to see this project through, which is what we are trying to do."

The minister said that when the moment arrives to analyze the proposal, he would listen to the opinions of the participating municipalities and the economic and political forces of the communities involved in the new border development model.

In 1972, the Costa Rican and Panamanian Governments signed an agreement for rural border progress; in 1979, they signed an overall development agreement for that area. In 1987, the governments requested EEC economic assistance to encourage the region's prosperity.

Interparliamentarians Agree To Action on Drugs

PA1202144789 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Feb 89 p 5-A

[Report by Mauricio Martinez S.]

[Text] A consensus to take joint action and draft similar legislation to impose severe punishment for the traffic and consumption of narcotics was achieved by those attending the Ninth Interparliamentary Latin American and European Conference, which ends today.

The majority of the legislators also favored having every nation ratify, as soon as possible, the UN convention on illicit narcotics traffic, which was approved in Vienna in December 1988.

In their 4th and last day of discussions, the legislators expressed their concern for the situation of women, and clamored for the enactment of laws necessary to achieve equality of rights between men and women.

Costa Rican Deputy Rose Marie Karpinski listed several challenges facing contemporary woman, including assuming a "humanizing role" that will reestablish the equilibrium of society's lost values.

She emphasized that it is imperative to educate women so they can break, together with men, the criteria of "machismo" and "hembrismo" [female equivalent of machismo]. She also came out in favor of stopping the process of "feminization of poverty," in which women bear most of the burden of the economic crisis and the policies of structural adjustment.

The majority of Karpinski's proposals were included in the final report that will be approved today.

On the problem of narcotics trafficking, several European and Latin American legislators agreed with the proposal made by the Costa Ricans Luis Manuel Chacon and Alex Solis.

Among other points, there was consensus for classifying the acquisition, possession, use, and "laundering," of money suspected to come from narcotics trafficking.

Social Christian legislator Carlos Araya proposed the establishment of a European-Latin American youth institute.

On another aspect, Panamanian delegate Victor Caballero denied a complaint by opposition leader Guillermo Cochez to the effect that the Panamanian representation included only progovernment members.

El Salvador

Editorial Criticizes Quayle, Duarte Performance

PA1002180989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Disinformation Persists About the Country"]

[Text] To everyone's amazement, during his 8-day visit to El Salvador, U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle referred to President Duarte's "heroic efforts in favor of democracy," a phrase that reveals Quayle's strange sense of humor and that he is used to providing the usual disinformation about our recent history and historical personages.

Duarte tried to reach power in 1972 by joining a band of insurgents (asking his fellow party members to destroy vehicles and take to the streets). He finally won the Presidency through a military coup and later used money supplied by the CIA. His background in that regard is anything but "a heroic effort in favor of democracy." The things most worthy of condemnation have been the way he has conducted his presidency, which as been marked by nepotism, a tolerance for corrupt government officials, arrogance, and indifference toward issues of public interest and debate.

From any standpoint, it is incongruous to speak of "heroic efforts in favor of democracy" when the Duarte regime came into existence by gagging the press, intimidating the opposition, trampling on civil rights recognized by every civilized nation, and governing by decree. It would have been a "heroic effort" if he had immediately called elections after the 1979 military coup and respected the country's legal system, even if General Romero was toppled, especially when one considers that former Vice President Julio Astacio had more personal, political, and professional advantages than the group that finally assumed office.

We must remember that democracy is something substantially more profound and noble than electoral politics. In essence, those who win elections are not given carte blanche to do as they wish; they have duties and obligations rather than rights and privileges.

It is fundamental for citizens to voice their opinions freely at the polls and to abide by the law, and for dignified and wise government leaders to keep abreast of public opinion, to be alert to domestic problems, to modify their initiatives based on expert advice, and constantly to reevaluate their programs and projects.

Even if nobody said anything, a good government leader who truly believes in democracy would not get intoxicated by his own ideas and propaganda to the point of blinding himself to reality and the plight of his people. The people should not have to demonstrate in the streets or write in newspapers for him to realize that unemployment is affecting a large segment of the working population or that prices are sky-high.

This man who has made "heroic efforts in favor of democracy" has remained unruffled in the face of the misery caused by his "civic-mindedness" ["comunitarismo"] and pursuit of his party programs. He does not appear to be phased by a drop in harvests, paralysis of investments, downfall of education, or the fate of those stricken with tuberculosis or orphaned children when his "health" minister makes cutbacks on funding for hospitals and orphanages.

Vice President Quayle deserves all our sympathy and respect in view of his political position and promising youth, but we expected much more from his visit than the reiteration of tired statements about the "squads," which only benefit party propaganda. If the White House is totally convinced that democracy should be supported in this country, it is wrong to continue to support and praise those whose superficial use of democracy constitutes abuse, who have led us from poverty to misery, and who have made El Salvador more vulnerable to totalitarian aggression. Degraded democracy and high unemployment violate human rights just as much as the military autocracies of the past did.

Duarte on FMLN Visit to San Salvador

PA1102050889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Unattributed report on news conference held by President Jose Napoleon Duarte with unidentified reporters "today"; place not given—portions recorded]

[Text] President Duarte today said the visit of an FMLN delegation to San Salvador to meet with political parties and clear up certain doubts regarding the rebel proposal is something that the Legislative Assembly has to approve. He said the government would not oppose the visit as long as the visit is within a constitutional framework.

[Begin Duarte recording] The Legislative Assembly should deal with this. Apparently, the Nationalist Republican Alliance has made some proposals, invited some FMLN commanders to come here, and even mentioned granting an amnesty. That is the Legislative Assembly's decision. If the methods used are constitutional, we would not oppose this, although it is not part of the dialogue that I have promoted to seek peace. [end recording]

As for the murder of Msgr Romero, President Duarte said it has been discovered who participated in the assassination. However, he added, the state's prosecutor will take the next step.

[Begin recording] [Duarte] We must discover a moral truth this year. The moral truth is that the people know who is responsible. They need no proof; they know it. There is also a legal truth and the police version. We must find out how the crime was committed. We have discovered the truth. The judicial truth is still missing. That is the duty of the prosecutor.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] That is the prosecutor's work. That is why the prosecutor was changed, because there was a better chance of discovering it with the previous prosecutor.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] possibility to discover it?

[Duarte] I do not know; that depends on the prosecutor. If he works hard, he could come up with information and statements. If he tries to capture Saravia.... [Duarte changes thought] I understand that we will even investigate the case of a Ciudad Barrios man called Campos who was kidnapped and murdered. We will present this case to the courts because Saravia and others are also involved in this case. [end recording]

Rebel Radio Says FMLN Commanders Meet Arias

PA1202194089 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The FMLN has made many proposals to seek a political, negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict. In addition, the FMLN has made several diplomatic efforts, as a result of which we have received support and understanding from many forces.

Members of the FMLN Political and Diplomatic Commission met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias on 10 February. They briefed Arias on the FMLN proposal, which aims to turn the upcoming Salvadoran elections into a contribution to peace.

Comrade Commanders Mercedes Letona and Jose Mario Lopez, members of the FMLN Political and Diplomatic Commission, met with President Arias. Arias showed great interest in our proposal. Undoubtedly, even though Duarte refuses to discuss our political proposal at the presidential summit, our proposal will be at the center of discussions. [12-second break in reception]...our proposal and said the Christian Democratic Party and the Nationalist Republican Alliance are playing games and are trying to use the FMLN proposal to get votes.

In addition, Comrade Letona told President Arias that if our proposal is not accepted, a social explosion will be unavoidable. Letona asserted that the FMLN will not lay down its weapons, because no one has demanded that the Salvadoran Armed Forces lay down their weapons. The FMLN therefore cannot be forced to do so.

Commander Letona added that if the elections are postponed, the Democratic Convergence would become the largest party and would win the elections.

In conclusion, Letona said the FMLN proposal has been described by the Central American presidents as a serious initiative that could lead to peace in our country.

FMLN Commander Diaz on Proposal Virtues

PA1002152389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Feb 89 p 7

[Article by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] The guerrillas' proposal to postpone the electoral process in El Salvador from March to September 1989 is not meant to blackmail Jose Napoleon Duarte's government but "to extend a hand, to create the possibility of finding a solution to the conflict among all the country's political forces and among all the parties participating in the elections."

During a stopover in Managua, Commander Nidia Diaz, a member of the FMLN's Political Diplomatic Commission, told BARRICADA that the guerrillas are offering an opportunity for national political forces to find a political solution now after the Salvadoran conflict has cost so much in economic and social terms.

According to information disclosed by Nidia Diaz, after 9 years of widespread fighting, there have been more than 60,000 civilians killed, more than 7,000 missing, a large number of people kidnapped, many political prisoners, more than 1 million refugees abroad, thousands of displaced people in the interior, and an economy that has dropped to its lowest levels (the cotton and coffee harvests have reached levels that are extremely low).

If the war continues, this situation will worsen. That is why the insurgency is calling attention to the fact that "the war is continuing; it is increasing."

What would happen, then, if no agreement is reached between the government, the Armed Forces and other Salvadoran political forces with regard to the guerrillas' proposal?

A Period of Definition

Commander Diaz, marked by scars all over her body as a result of this bloody war, noted: "We have begun to search for definitions. We must define our solutions.

BARRICADA insisted: What do you mean define them?

"We must define the solution to the conflict. We are talking about the possibility of really beginning negotiations, because, as far as we are concerned, we are truly resolved to begin negotiations." How should this be done? She adds: "We are looking into a mechanism, into having elections in which the people will express their

mandate. There are other mechanisms, other ways, but that will be up to those sectors that have refused to come to terms with the conflict through peaceful means."

The FMLN proposal, presented to the international community on 23 January, precisely 3 days after George Bush's inauguration, has been well received internationally. The Salvadoran leader stressed the support of Latin America, which has vowed to "study it."

As a result of the absence of a rejection of this proposal by the U.S., the guerrillas decided to suspend attacks against U.S. facilities in El Salvador 4 days ago. However, this does not extend to U.S. military advisers accompanying Salvadoran troops in counterinsurgency actions or advisers who are in Army garrisons.

The Gist of the Matter

Does it mean that the FMLN has pushed "Duarte and the United States between the devil and the deep blue sea?" Nidia, who is very calm and sure of herself, answered that question. "Well, to the contrary, it is a realistic proposal." The correlation of political-military forces in El Salvador has been changing since 1988. It is favorable for the guerrillas.

Therefore, "we do not intend to finish off (the Army) militarily, but we are seeking a solution with the smallest social cost" to avoid what FMLN leadership calls "a social explosion."

If (the ultrarightist) ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] wins, it would lack a socioeconomic program that responds to the workers' demands. An ARENA victory would result in an uprecedented confrontation. ARENA's idea, Commander Diaz noted, is to free the Army to commit genocide.

However, one must remember that 1989 is not 1932 or 1944. "The people will not be massacred like that now."

What distinguishes the gist of the current proposal from other proposals made since 1980 is that the guerrillas have begun to negotiate a series of conditions or mechanisms "that would allow the people to express their mandate."

According to U.S. analysts, El Salvador—the greatest recipient of U.S. military aid in the continent ($98.6 million for the current fiscal year)--has become the top Central American issue of the current U.S. Administration.

Ronald Reagan's policy was definitely the biggest obstacle for a negotiated solution in El Salvador.

Willing To Discuss Counterproposals

President Jose Napoleon Duarte initially rejected the guerrilla proposal. The State Department subsequently said that it need not be rejected. The Salvadoran president then said that it had to be "studied."

The Christian Democratic (ruling) Party called all parties to discuss a counterproposal to reach a consensus tomorrow.

The guerrilla commander said that "the FMLN is willing to discuss counterproposals from all political forces, but they must be serious and responsible."

She warned that if the attitude prevails of placing the "Constitution" before everything else, it must be recalled that it was Major D'Aubuisson (accused of being the leader of the "Death Squads") who signed it.

Nidia emphasized, "If peace is the topic for discussion now, if it is the main issue under consideration, it is worth making all necessary changes and adjustments."

Armed Forces' View of Proposal

PA1002152889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, head of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, today described the FMLN peace proposal as a political ploy and told the political parties that if they draw up a counterproposal it must adhere to the Constitution. According to Ponce, accepting the FMLN proposal entails dividing the Armed Forces.

[Ponce] "We feel that this proposal must be analyzed and that any counterproposal must be in line with the Constitution because, as an institution, the Armed Forces are required to monitor compliance with the Constitution and to comply with it themselves. This is our position regarding this proposal."

Ponce added that the FMLN wants to use this proposal to engage in political maneuvers and to reach a compromise with the government because it realizes that it is not meeting its goals and that it is experiencing military attrition. In addition, Ponce said, the FMLN wants to betray the good faith of the international community and to win the political and diplomatic support it has not succeeded in obtaining up until now.

[Ponce] "We realize that saying yes or no to the FMLN proposal will be problematic either way. Saying no will have negative repercussions abroad but will strengthen the democratic process in our country. Saying yes will cause problems within the Armed Forces, disagreements

between the state branches and the Armed Forces, division within the Armed Forces, and other serious, unforeseeable problems. We think peace should be sought on safe roads and not on footpaths.

"Therefore, we must not allow the laws and the legal system of our country to be violated by playing with the emotions and the hopes for peace of the people whom the FMLN is trying to manipulate. If we do so, chaos and anarchy will follow and nobody will respect the law. The FMLN is trying to cause confusion between the concept of constitution and the concept of peace by saying that this would be normal under the Constitution and that peace has social value. This is the situation we must evaluate."

When asked about the FMLN's chances of winning, Ponce said that the guerrillas are militarily defeated and this is what leads them to engage in terrorism, which hurts the civilian population.

A phrase we have been hearing over the past few days following the presentation of the guerrillas' proposal is: We have never been so close to peace. Expectations are growing rapidly, because in a surprise move, the guerrillas announced their decision to accept the invitation from the Legislative Assembly. However, Col Ponce emphasized in conclusion that the Armed Forces are prepared to make any sacrifice whatsoever to rid El Salvador of international communism, which, he said and we quote, is embedded within the FMLN.

Political Parties Respond

PA1102225989 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Report by Joel Burgos on statements by Democratic Convergence members (Arnette Diaz de Zamora), Dr Manuel Ungo, and Popular Union's Hugo Barrera—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A consensus has at last been reached after a week of talks between leaders of the various parties who are studying the guerrilla's peace proposal. The politicians agreed on the need to draft a document listing the parties' questions regarding the proposal. The document will be handed immediately to the guerrillas, and 3 days after receiving the guerrilla leaders' reply, an urgent and private meeting between these leaders and the politicians will be called.

[Diaz de Zamora] "It was agreed to draft a document listing the questions the various political parties still have on the FMLN's proposal; and there is another important point. I am going to read to you the text of the agreements:

"The political parties shall present, on Monday, 13 February at the latest, the questions and points they wish to clarify about the FMLN's proposal. This will be sent immediately to the FMLN. Three days after receiving the FMLN's reply, the political parties will invite a delegation of some of the signers of the FMLN proposal to hold direct talks with them [the political party leaders] at a mutually agreed place."

The politicians have been meeting separately ever since the guerrillas offered to participate in the presidential elections and to respect their outcome as long as they were postponed by 6 months and security and procedures were guaranteed. However, it was not until today that a specific result was achieved, although it is not definite.

The private meeting with rebel commanders could take place in Mexico or Costa Rica as some parties have proposed. At that meeting, the most important issues contained in the proposal, including a definitive suspension of hostilities and rescheduling of the elections, could be discussed.

[Barrera] "Besides terrorist actions, which have increased recently, they have also released a document dated 2 days prior to the date of their proposal. In that document, which appeared in the Costa Rican LA NACION, they express views completely different than those in their proposal. This is what we want to discuss.

"Also, we also want to talk about their proposal to recognize the legitimacy of the elections and the election results."

However, this is only the beginning. For some, it only means delaying the process and in the end, the elections would take place on 19 March anyway. The guerrillas have already expressed doubts and described the meetings as a delaying tactic. Democratic Convergence leader Guillermo Manuel Ungo shares this position. Therefore, he is cautious about the situation.

[Ungo] "I believe that the expectation generated by the FMLN proposal in certain areas and the [words indistinct] Armed Forces High Command has not yet been clarified. I am cautious about the possible success of any agreement based on the FMLN proposal."

At the beginning of today's meeting, when the eight points were being discussed, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, was apparently opposed. However, in the end, it agreed to meet with the FMLN leadership.

Nevertheless, politicians are still caught between the devil and the deep blue sea in view of the Armed Forces' categorical opposition to the rebels' proposal and the increasingly loud popular clamor demanding a political solution to the armed conflict.

Labor Unions Reaction

PA1202173689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Joint declaration by the Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers, Salvadoran Workers National Union, General Association of Public and Municipal Employees, and National Peasant-Worker Unity; issued in San Salvador on 10 February]

[Text] 1. Let the political parties stop acting as representatives of the people and using the FMLN proposal to serve their electoral interests. We urge them to demonstrate a political will in favor of immediately discussing the proposal.

2. Let the Legislative Assembly, Supreme Court of Justice, and Executive Branch adopt a position in line with the true situation of the Salvadoran people.

3. Let the Armed Forces join the people in their demand and search for a negotiated peaceful solution based on the FMLN proposal.

4. Let the spirit of Article 1 of the Constitution prevail. That article states that the state's sole objective is to serve man. Therefore, the Constitution is not an obstacle in the search for peace.

San Salvador, 10 February 1989

Station on Proposal Reactions

PA1202235589 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Salvadoran political parties' discussion about the FMLN proposal undoubtedly... [6-second break in reception] along with the other parties headed by the Democratic Convergence, are the ones who are keeping alive the possibility of an agreement and a negotiated solution.

Duarte initially thought that by declaring the FMLN proposal an issue to be handled by the political parties, he would be free from any direct responsibility. He knew very well that the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] would yield to the warmongering attitude of the Armed Forces High Command, and that the other parties lack decision making power.

Duarte, however, was wrong. He did not properly size up the force of our proposal and did not think of the discussion it would generate. The PDC and ARENA had to retreat. They faltered, and at present are still not in a position to give free reign to their militaristic ideas.

The Salvadoran people saw the U.S. Administration hesitate, and today, 20 days after the presentation of the proposal, the United States has been unable to pay the high political costs that Ponce [chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff] and Salvadoran Defense Minister Vides Casanova are suffering.

The urgent need for, along with the force of our proposal, is clearly greater than before. The FMLN proposal is ready to be discussed at the presidential summit. Despite this, the Salvadoran Government and High Command continue their violence by making provocative statements and trying to destroy the efforts made by the various political parties and social groups.

The political parties just expressed the possibility of talking with the FMLN either in Mexico or Costa Rica. Duarte immediately saw a golden alternative in that possibility, because in that way the attention will be drawn outside the country, the spirit of the Salvadoran people will be placated, and he will continue with his 19 March [election day] farce.

[ARENA President] Alfredo Cristiani said it clearly. He asserted that the goal of the meeting between the FMLN and the political parties should be to move the FMLN away from the presidential summit.

We can see that Duarte and Cristiani speak the same antipeople's language. The hope for a solution created by the FMLN proposal and for the continuation of the public debate among political parties, associations, institutions, organizations, and other forces, however, will not leave the PDC or ARENA alone.

The warmongering forces will not resort to the High Command without paying an irreparable political cost. Until now, the FMLN has been the only force that has shown willingness and has made specific contributions to the historic demands of the Salvadoran people. Duarte and the United States are abusing the flexibility and broad-mindedness of their counterpart, but the people's anger is still there and the need for a serious dialogue is becoming increasingly urgent.

The nation is crying out for a dialogue in which the people and all forces can participate. The nation is crying out for a dialogue in which the groups that have decision-making power participate—and do so with a desire to negotiate. They must do so while knowing that they are facing a political and military power strongly supported by the people. That power will never unconditionally lay down its weapons as long as there is no comprehensive process of negotiation and as long as the problems of hunger, sovereignty, and repression are not solved in our homeland.

[8-second break in reception]...the peoples' and progressive forces of our country, the various mass organizations, associations, labor unions, and political parties to struggle for a public dialogue. A dialogue in which

people's interests prevail and in which the people can participate. We do not want a dialogue behind peoples' backs, as Duarte and death squad leader Cristiani wants. We want a true dialogue that will seek true solutions to the Salvadoran people's serious economic, political, and social crisis.

Let us all fight the warmongering attitude of the High Command, of ARENA's death squad leaders, and of the Yankee imperialists. We must seek a dialogue of wide participation in which all groups, labor unions, associations, and student organizations can participate to seek the peace the Salvadoran people long for.

FMLN Says Government, Parties Hindering Peace

PA1102142089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Station commentary: "The Regime's Delaying Tactics Against the Moves for Peace"]

[Text] While the majority of labor, community, cooperative, student, and Christian groups—the country's democratic and mass organizations—support the FMLN proposal to make the elections a contribution to peace, the regime has maintained its contradictory and obvious delaying tactics to avoid a serious official response to the peace initiative.

The pretext used by the Armed Forces, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, is that they are seeking a consensus. ARENA has said openly that it is almost certain the political parties will not reach a consensus on the FMLN proposal. The PDC has simply stopped attending the lengthy meetings where the political parties discuss consensus proposals or responses.

Napoleon Duarte and the Armed Forces have warned the parties not to accept the proposal because that would give the Democratic Convergence an advantage over the other candidates in the elections. The PDC speaks about a consensus, but it is delaying and complicating the talks.

ARENA and the (?lackey) Armed Forces clearly object to a negotiated political solution. They are determined to carry out their plan of total war and genocide. The PDC and Duarte continue their counterinsurgency war plan, which is hidden under the guise of democracy, but the many years of war have more than demonstrated this plan's failure.

The PDC's most decisive action has been to use the proposal for its election campaign, without accepting the challenge of contributing to peace. [Vice President] Castillo Claramount is farther to the right than even General Vides Casanova with his demagoguery, which Castillo Claramount has even used against the Bush administration's moderate position.

The FMLN's proposal is a challenge to the regime. Vides Casanova has openly said that in [word indistinct] elections, the right wing runs the risk of losing to the left-wing forces, which offer a viable alternative. The regime, however, has not accepted the historic challenge with maturity. The PDC still views itself as a democratic center, when it is nothing more than a group of organizations lacking a social base, the shell of a decadent party that promotes an old-fashioned reformist populism and that has gradually (?worn itself out) to the point of becoming what it is today: the oligarchy's tool.

Our political resolve to contribute to peace is clear. We reaffirmed this resolve by decreeing a unilateral truce on 13 and 14 February to provide suitable conditions for the Central American presidential summit in El Salvador. We have taken a clear position in response to the efforts for peace in Central America.

We reiterate our serious and responsible position. We can prevent the elections from being a farce that fails to solve the country's fundamental problems: war, lack of peace, lack of true democracy, and deep social problems that have kept our society in a state of crisis.

We summon the people and democratic organizations to mobilize and to decisively state their support for the FMLN's peace initiative. This way the regime and the world will clearly hear our cry for true democracy; for elections without repression, U.S. intervention, or fraud; and for justice and peace.

Mayors' Resignations Hurt Election Organization

PA1102204889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1307 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Death threats by Salvadoran guerrillas have caused 106 out of a total of 262 municipal mayors to resign over the past 2 months and have hindered the organization of the 19 March general elections.

ACAN-EFE gained access to an official report that says 106 municipalities out of a total of 262 have no mayor. This is in addition to 50 towns that have not had municipal officials in the past few years and whose local governments operate "in exile." A few towns, especially in the eastern part of the country, have been without municipal officials since the conflict started 10 years ago.

The report said the Christian Democratic government has been unable to organize the elections because mayors have resigned just 37 days before elections and at the height of the election campaign. President Jose Napoleon Duarte's replacement will be elected by 1.8 million Salvadorans on 19 March.

The "restricted" report also said that municipal officials have not been able to register births or deaths and that other municipal services have been hindered. The FMLN's threats have also prevented the government

from collecting taxes. The rebels have sent the mayors letters demanding that they resign because, according to the rebels, the mayors "are the main pillars of the Army's counterinsurgency plan and thus are considered military targets."

The report added that the Legislative Assembly approved a decree to counter the lack of mayors. The decree, issued in the latter part of 1988, stated that every mayor must designate a "suitable" replacement for his post. According to the document, however, up until now the measure has not been successful, because people are "afraid" to assume municipal positions in some towns. The report noted that the Army has stationed troops in most of the towns without mayors but "cannot guarantee the lives of the threatened mayors."

Meanwhile, anticommunist organizations have issued warnings in the past few days that "persons linked to the terrorist system will be executed" for each mayor who resigns.

A "death squad" that was recently created, the Revolutionary Anticommunist Action [Accion Revolucionaria Anticomunista], has reacted to the rebel death threats against San Miguel Mayor Ricardo Alberto Leon. Some people in San Miguel are preparing a march to support Mayor Leon.

Urban guerrillas have warned Leon that the 72-hour deadline for him to resign elapsed Wednesday night and that "rebel units will act as announced."

Police Director on Security Measures for Summit

PA1102181789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] National Police Director Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar announced today that the police have uncovered an FMLN plot involving a series of activities organized by local labor unions, such as the takeover of churches, demonstrations, and the burning of buses. According to Guzman, the police already knew about the plot but obtained further details from information provided by five people who were arrested on Wednesday.

[Begin Guzman recording] The police arrested five people on Wednesday near San Marcos. They are members of the National Association of Agriculture and Livestock Workers, ANTA. Little by little, they began to provide us with information. They admitted being members of the FMLN. They also admitted their involvement in the plot. Usually, people arrested in this kind of situation deny everything. In this case, however, one person confirmed that these street incidents had been planned to provoke the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Guzman added that strict security measures will be taken during the Central American presidential summit and will involve not only security forces but also military personnel:

[Begin Guzman recording] You probably recall that this meeting had first been scheduled for the 2d half of January. We have simply revamped the plans we had made for that occasion. We will not only be using the National Police for security. Other public security forces, as well as several military units, will be involved. The summit, as has been announced, will take place at the Tesoro Beach Hotel. We hope there will be no incidents during the meeting. Believe me, the security measures we have taken are very strict. We will not allow any kind of disorder and will ensure that the meeting takes place in a proper climate of peace and quiet. [end recording]

In conclusion, Guzman reported that he will soon release statements by ANTA members and other evidence disclosing the motives behind these disruptive plots and where they are planned.

Venceremos Reports Honduran Troop Incursion

PA1202033489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] We ask the Honduran, Salvadoran, and international media to pay attention. Honduran troops have again entered Salvadoran territory. On 8 February, Honduran troops entered several border areas in El Salvador's Morazan and San Miguel Departments. In the last few hours, these troops entered the village of Sicahuite in Torola jurisdiction, Morazan Department. The Honduran soldiers violently searched the village and they threatened and brutally beat 40-year-old Mrs Eusebia Pineda, who was pregnant. As a result of the beating, she gave birth prematurely and is now in serious condition. Carlos Diaz, another resident of the village, was also threatened and beaten.

We have last-minute, confirmed reports that the Honduran troops are acting jointly with members of the 3d Infantry Brigade under the command of Colonel Vargas, specifically troops of the Ponce Battalion. The civilian population reports that the Honduran and Salvadoran troops are wearing shirts with the insignia of the Ponce Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade and the insignia of the Honduran Army.

It is not in the Honduran Government or people's interest to become involved in the Salvadoran conflict at a time when they are having serious problems with the contras, precisely as a result of their involvement in a conflict that is of no concern at all to the Honduran people. This also occurs at a time when the FMLN has made a flexible proposal for a political settlement of the Salvadoran conflict.

'Fierce Clashes' Reportedly Near Guazapa Hill

PA1002181689 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 7

[Text] Heavy gunfire and strong explosions were heard from late afternoon to midnight yesterday in the northeastern part of San Salvador in an area between Guazapa Hill and Suchitoto. The first reports state that there were fierce clashes between the guerrillas and Army units, probably from the 1st Infantry Brigade, Military Detachment No 5, the National Guard, and the National Police.

Coprefa confirmed today that the Armed Forces had conducted operations in the area of Los Mazariego Hill, San Jose Guayabal, where the Belloso Battalion and other Army units clashed with columns of extremists who sustained 5 dead and 10 wounded. It was reported that among the dead is rebel leader Oscar Rivas Hernandez, who was carrying war materiel, a knapsack containing ammunition, personal belongings, documents, and propaganda.

The Coprefa report adds that another rebel was killed and another one wounded in a clash with the Civil Defense in San Juan Los Planes, Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department, near the Antioquia Estate.

It is also reported that the Cacahuatique Battalion from Military Detachment No 4 of San Francisco Gotera, Morazan, killed one extremist—Angelica Amaya—who was carrying an M-16 rifle, ammunition clips, hand grenades, etc. The clashes took place near Los Villalta, Guatajiagua.

Usulutan's Atonal Battalion also clashed twice yesterday in Los Tres Chorros, San Agustin, and Bolivar. One guerrilla was wounded in each place. The troops also seized hand grenades, a considerable amount of ammunition for Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, knapsacks with war materiel, communist propaganda, and the terrorists' personal belongings.

Army Reports Casualties, Damage to Power Supply

PA1102004189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Military authorities have reported that three rebels were killed and the electricity system suffered damage as the result of violent actions in the past few hours.

A Defense Ministry report states that three rebels were killed in skirmishes with Army units in Cabanas, Chalatenango, and Usulutan Departments. The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission reported an undetermined number of structures of the [words indistinct] Nejapa primary line were blown up at daybreak today by the FMLN.

In addition, Quezaltepeque police sources reported at least five electric towers were blown up today by a group of rebels.

FMLN Military Action Claims 23 Casualties

PA1102033689

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 10 February broadcasts 15 minutes of reports on FMLN actions in the last few days.

The station begins announcing the results of a 6-hour clash, which began at 1100 on 6 February, between FMLN guerrillas and a Belloso Battalion company. "In the first few minutes, we inflicted 4 casualties on the enemy," the station notes, adding that "in the end, the soldiers were forced to withdraw from the area." Moreover, "in view of Belloso Battalion's despair," the Salvadoran Armed Forces top command sent five UH-1N helicopters, an A-37 Dragonfly plane, an O-2 push-pull light plane, a C-47 air gunship, and a Hughes 500 helicopter, which dropped "hundreds of pounds of explosives in an futile display of resources," the report stated. Further on fighting on Guazapa Hill, the station reports that during a 72-hour clash that began on 5 February, Belloso Battalion "sustained 23 casualties." A report from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front states that at 1100 on 8 February, Atonal Battalion sustained three casualties when they hit mines planted by the FMLN in San Augustin Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

Guatemala

Cerezo Speaks on Human Rights, Caracas Visit

PA0902232689 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report on interview with President Vinicio Cerezo; date place and not given — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] In a happy and cheerful mood—which many of his compatriots probably do not share—President Vinicio Cerezo discussed several topics at a news conference today. He used Mexicanisms and even Anglicisms from beginning to end of the news conference.

On security and human rights issues, the President referred to the the government report to be submitted in Geneva, where this month a UN Commission is studying the human rights situation in Guatemala and in other countries.

[Cerezo] "We have proven that in more than 60 percent of cases where people are reported missing, they are later found, but their return is not reported to the police. Many are domestic cases, involving minors at odds with their parents, or girls running away with boyfriends—the largest percentage. This is very interesting, because we

are held responsible for those missing people. [Cerezo laughs]. Some are minors, and others are husbands who run away from home with some justification [Cerezo laughs]. Ninety percent of all those reported missing have subsequently been found, and approximately 30 percent of the remainder are people who have died for various reasons, while others are accident-related deaths not reported to relatives. A very small percentage have died as a result of violent or criminal acts. There are hardly any cases in which political violence has been identified as the motive; however, all cases where this is suspected have been documented and publicized so that people can see that we are following this problem. This is a result of the Civil Protection System, which created the investigative mechanism that will now be applied systematically."

When asked about the positions of other Latin American countries at the UN Human Right Commission debate regarding human rights in Guatemala, Cerezo said:

[Cerezo] "Mexico will submit a report in favor of Guatemala. They are already... [changes thought]. They have drafted a report that more or less takes the same position as the resolution passed last year. We believe it is the correct position. We all know that Mexico has great prestige; actually Latin America has expressed unanimous support for this stance. Cuba may cast the only vote against it. But we do not know; even Cuba might change its vote after seeing Latin America's unity and general attitude. We know that we have made some progress, that some things remain to be solved, and that there are some problems. Therefore, it is best to listen to advice and to continue with the process. This, basically, is the resolution."

The president cited statistics and references in the report prepared by the Guatemalan Government for presentation at the United Nations.

[Cerezo] "It is interesting to note that the report documented approximately 500 [corrects himself] 700 activities by popular groups in 1988, an unprecedented number in Guatemala. There was not a single act of repression against those activitites."

In contrast with the tone of the government report on the Human Rights situation in Guatemala, two organizations persisted today with charges that cast doubt on the government's human rights policy.

First, the Mutual Support Group (GAM) reported that GAM and Committee of Peasants' Unity members have been systematically threatened with death in El Quiche in the past few days for alleged links with the guerrillas. The GAM alleges that these charges and threats have their origins in last year's discovery of two clandestine cemeteries in this northwestern department. The GAM also demands the reappearance—alive—of three Quetzaltenango university students who might have been kidnapped. The GAM rejects the official report that the three university students are simply missing. The GAM communique even cites reports that Guillermo Rios Guzman, one of the three university students, was found dead and with signs of torture in Escuintla. However the GAM has not confirmed this.

The Center for Investigation, Study, and Promotion of Human Rights, a nongovernment organization, submitted a report to the Congress today, which, as has been mentioned, is the result of an exhaustive investigation into the November massacre of 22 people in San Andres Itzapa.

Among the conclusions, the report says that the massacre, an example of the current disintegration of society, is a means of taking land away from peasants and Indians in the country, which has been used in the past. The report adds that as the result of the loss of the victims' land and property, the relatives, widows, and children of the victims are constantly harassed to sell what little property or few possessions they have left.

Government officials have said repeatedly in the past few months that the Aguacate massacre and other reports are part of a campaign to tarnish Guatemala's image abroad and to persuade the United Nations to condemn Guatemala after its examination of the human rights situation in Guatemala. According to the Government, the appearance of clandestine organizations similar to the death squads are part of this campaign. The death squads were particularly active some 7 to 12 years ago.

Today, President Cerezo mentioned the illegal group, Justice Jaguar, known as JJ.

[Cerezo] "These people must be very confused in their ideology: [Cerezo laughs] ...first, because they are killing people allegedly to fight criminals. Supposedly fascist groups, right-wing groups do such things; but this group views democracy as a fascist right-wing movement. Members of this group must be very confused to take this kind of action against criminals. Second, they do not know what to put forward as their ideology.

Therefore, I think this group has been invented to cause confusion and to create a climate of violence and instability. This always happens before the Geneva voting takes place. Both the extreme left and right would like to see our country condemned in Geneva. The extreme right, having no chance under current political arrangements, wants to create instability to bring about total change; the extreme left may also want this. However, I do not think so because, although the extreme left commits crimes and makes very clumsy errors sometimes, I do not think the left would do something so stupid. This is more the extreme right's sort of attitude.

I honestly think that this will continue. Next year they will invent something else, and the group may be called D and D or J and D or something like this [laughter] so

[Cerezo laughs] so that Guatemala is again examined in Geneva. The worst part of all this is that they are taking Guatemalan lives. How awful! I hope that in 10 or 15 years these men, when the generations have changed, have disappeared from the country's history.

Turning to other issues, Cerezo confirmed the resignations of Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera and Development Minister Rene de Leon Schlotter, both Christian Democratic Party [PDC] presidential candidates.

[Cerezo] "They will be involved full time in their electoral activities. I am doing both of them a favor."

The president also discussed criticisms both he and his wife, presidential candidate Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, have received because of their frequent trips abroad. Raquel Blandon de Cerezo will travel to Greece to participate in an international conference on the rights and political outlook of women.

[Cerezo] "They are always criticizing our trips abroad; I do not know why. From a business point of view, the trips cost a certain amount of money—sometimes more, sometimes less. However, every trip made by the president and his wife has gained huge benefits for the country, now worth over hundreds of millions of quetzals. Therefore, if we have spent some 2 million quetzals in our travels aborad, then we have invested 2 million quetzals to obtain hundreds of millions of quetzals—an excellent investment."

Cerezo rejected the possibility that the Central American summit scheduled for next week is in danger of being postponed once again. Immediately after attending the inauguration ceremonies in Caracas, Venezuela last week, Cerezo traveled to Costa Rica and met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

[Cerezo] "I wanted to take advantage of my trip to Venezuela—otherwise I would have had to make another trip from Guatemala, which would have disturbed some people and we would not want that [laughter]—therefore I took advantage of my trip to Venezuela and everything went well.

"We achieved two important things. First, we again insisted on the need for the Central American parliament, which was proposed to the Legislative Assembly in Costa Rica. Despite the opposition of some writers in Costa Rica, who believe this could entangle Costa Rica in Central American problems, we tried to show the Costa Rican people that it is a good thing for them because it could give them more economic [word indistinct]; it could provide them with many benefits; and last, they would not face risks because each Central American president would have the right to veto the decisions made by the Central American parliament."

The Guatemalan president discussed the initiatives of some presidents who recently met in Caracas to consider inviting the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro to participate in the Central American peace talks.

[Cerezo] "As for Fidel Castro, we will not ask him for help because we cannot request help from someone who has associated himself with a specific political ideology that calls for the violent solution of problems. One way or another—morally, politically, or logistically—he has supported this ideology. I am not saying anything new because they [not further identified] have admitted it publicly themselves. We have pointed this out, and it is a fact of essential importance that must be discussed, even if some countries or institutions do not like it.

If we want peace in Central America we must include all those involved in the violence. We cannot achieve peace if we do not convince those who believe in violence that they do not have the right to destabilize these countries. How will we be able to include Fidel Castro in this process? What can we do to make him understand that the majority of the Central American people reject the violent, armed revolutionary strategy. We must discuss this. We must not continue to treat Mr Castro and the USSR as if they did not exist. They exist, and we must discuss what to do with them, just as the United States finally had to sit down and talk with the USSR—reluctantly—so it could reduce its defense budget by 6 percent."

Cerezo also mentioned the presidents' reaction in Caracas to the overthrow of General Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship last Friday. He compared the case of Paraguay with Cuba.

[Cerezo] "There were jokes that Castro is now the longest-serving Latin American president. Of course Castro is of a different political ideology. He was asked when he would implement perestroyka in his own country. We were all pleased with the news of the coup, because despite the problems faced by some democracies, the overthrow of Stroessner is necessarily a step toward strong democratic traditions in Latin America."

The Guatemalan president talked about the evolution of political thought in Latin America in the last 3 decades.

[Cerezo] "In the 1960's, being a revolutionary was to take a rifle and go to the mountains. In the 1990's being a revolutionary means accepting that one does not have the absolute truth, that one must sit down and discuss matters with others to find truth. Today, the person who still carries weapons is more conservative than [word indistinct]."

During the news conference, Cerezo said he will name the new foreign minister on 14 February. He also said the next summit meeting will certainly be the last opportunity for the current five Central American presidents

to discuss regional problems. In this context, he said he hopes the new U.S. Government adopts a more favorable approach to dialogue than the Reagan administration did.

Human Rights Leader on Peasant 'Massacre'

PA1002222289 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 8

[Excerpts] Factor Mendez, director of a nongovernmental human rights organization, today said that "security forces, especially the National Army, are responsible for the massacre of 22 people in El Aguacate, in San Andres Itzapa, Chimaltenango." Mendez also denounced the presence of U.S. troops in that area as he presented a report on the bloody incident to the Legislative Assembly. [passage omitted]

Mendez said, "The extent of military control in the area is such that on the eve of the massacre, armed U.S. military personnel were participating in an alleged medical activity in Chimachoy, less than 5 km from El Aguacate." He added that this activity took place between 6 and 13 November and that the U.S. troops travelled in U.S. jet helicopters.

The report states that on 6 November, about 200 men came down from the mountains to an area 2 km from Antigua Guatemala, "heavily armed, wearing khaki uniforms and caps, with their faces covered with black shoe polish," and led and guarded by members of the Army unit 302. [passage omitted]

22 Civilians, 3 Police Wounded

PA1002223589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2137 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A total of 22 civilians and 3 policemen were wounded today in a fragmentation grenade attack on a National Police garrison in the city of San Marcos, 253 km southwest of the capital of Guatemala.

Firemen's spokesman David Aguilar told ACAN-EFE that 25 people were injured by the explosives thrown by the unidentified attackers.

The source added that those injured in the attack included several women and children who had attended a religious ceremony in the city's Catholic church and were passing the garrison at the time.

Aguilar said that firemen helped the injured, including three policemen who were hospitalized.

Police authorities reported that they do not know who carried out the attack.

The Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), one of three rebel groups that makes up the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), is active in San Marcos Department on the Mexican border.

Army Rejects Involvement

PA1102022289 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] The report issued by the Center for Human Rights Investigation, Study, and Promotion [CIEPRODH] is full of lies, Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, the head of the Army's Information and Press Department, has said.

The Army spokesman was describing the visit by CIEPRODH members to the Guatemalan Congress, where they insinuated that the El Aguacate massacre was carried out by the Guatemalan Army.

Factor Mendez and Fernando Estrada claimed that CIEPRODH investigations determined that the El Aguacate area was under total Army control when the massacre took place.

Mendez and Estrada added that on the evening before the killing of the 22 peasants, a group of U.S. soldiers took part in an alleged medical tour of the Chimachoy hamlet, less than 5 km from El Aguacate.

Mendez and Estrada said that on 25 November, machinegun fire was heard in nearby villages, in a simulated battle staged by the Army.

Referring to these accusations, Col Isaacs Rodriguez said the Army maintains its position that the massacre was carried out by subversive ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] criminals.

As for the presence of U.S. military personnel, Isaacs Rodriguez said there is an assistance agreement between the Kentucky National Guard, the Guatemalan Army's Military Sanitation Department, and the National Directorate of Public Health to help area residents.

This aid started in August, and the U.S. military personnel returned in November. The program has continued, and U.S. personnel are currently in the area.

During November, 7,085 people and 2,737 animals received medical attention. Isaacs Rodriguez added that helicopters are used for this work.

At the time of the massacre, the National Emergency Committee [CONE] was in the area protecting inhabitants who had been affected by a wave of earth tremors.

Everyone knows CONE is not a military organization. Therefore, it is not true that the area was under the Army's total control, the spokesman added.

Col Isaacs Rodriguez ended by saying that the accusation against the Army was made by someone who wants the public spotlight for political purposes.

Former Nicaraguan National Guardsmen Arrive

PA1102033489 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Two Nicaraguans—former members of Anastacio Somoza's National Guard—arrived last night in Guatemala under the protection of the Venezuelan Government. The two Nicaraguans, who are spending the day in a Guatemala City hotel, spent nearly 10 years at the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua before they were able to leave Nicaragua. Colonel Carlos Orlando Gutierrez, 64, and Captain Mario Guerra Palacios, 42, arrived last night in Guatemala City on a Panamanian airline flight. This is the longest case of political asylum inside a diplomatic mission in Latin America's history. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Spain

PA1102030689 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Summary] The Spanish and Guatemalan Governments on 9 February signed a cultural, educational, and sports cooperation agreement. The governments had previously signed a technical cooperation agreement. Spain will implement five development programs in Guatemala, worth over 8 million quetzals, that will deal with reforestation, domestic tourism, rural development, and the training of public employees in customs and foreign trade duties.

Honduras

Azcona Comments on Contras, Domestic Issues

PA1202160589 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1750 GMT 8 Feb 89

[News conference by President Jose Azcona with unidentified reporters at Government Palace; date not given—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Azcona]...so people do not think the government is the only one that does not want things to improve. There are conflicting interests among the various groups, and they must find a way to solve their disagreements.

[Reporter] Regarding the national concerted effort you have announced, do you think it will have some result during what is left of your presidential term?

[Azcona] What I want is to maintain an open dialogue. It is not easy to explain things in black and white. There are conflicting interests among the various groups. We will hold other meetings with political groups and the reconciliation commission to avoid confrontations during the election campaign.

We are very concerned about the most recent political crimes committed in our country. It seems there are people trying to [word indistinct], placing bombs, etc. I believe this wave of violence will not have major consequences, but we must make all necessary efforts to maintain order in this country.

[Reporter] Mr President, what do you think is the basic factor that will guarantee the success of the concerted effort you are promoting?

[Azcona] The basic factor is cooperation so we can make improvements. For example, the business sector can make sacrifices and guarantee that no mass dismissals will be conducted this year and that it will try to increase the number of jobs. The workers can promise not to conduct any strikes until all labor code resources have been exhausted. Other groups can help us to make progress.

[Reporter] Mr President, Callejas [Honduran political opposition leader] said the contra problem must be discussed at the national dialogue. What do you think?

[Azcona] I agree. We will take that issue to the political arena and then discuss it with the various groups. Nicaraguan President Ortega presented a proposal regarding the contras. We believe that is part of the solution to the problem. The contra problem is not the only thing hindering Central American peace and development. If the contra problem is solved, there is still the internal problem of democratization in Nicaragua and the internal problem in El Salvador. If the contras were to disappear tomorrow, it does not mean Nicaraguan refugees would stop coming to Honduras and all problems would disappear, because the internal situation in Nicaragua would still be there. The Central American problems can only be solved in an overall manner or at least by promoting a solution that includes progress in all respects.

[Reporter] Has your government asked Dr Reina to resign from his post as the Honduran representative at The Hague?

[Azcona] Yes, he is our representative at The Hague. He will be here and at The Hague, because there is also a lot of work to be done here. We must coordinate many things. In other words, he is back at the Honduran Foreign Ministry to help us with the problem of the suit filed by El Salvador.

[Reporter] Mr President, President Ortega is making changes in his government. What do you think of that?

[Azcona] It makes us happy to see those changes. For example, he told us he is reducing the number of EPS members and the number of Interior Ministry officials. He plans to promote a mixed economy and strengthen ideological pluralism. All those things were established by the FSLN through Nicaraguan Foreign Minister

Miguel D'Escoto at the historic OAS meeting held in (?1972), which undoubtedly facilitated the fall of dictator Somoza. We could say Nicaragua has wasted 10 years, but it is never too late to begin again and base the solution to the Nicaraguan problem expressly on the Nicaraguan people and not on the other Central American peoples.

[Reporter] Mr President, will the national dialogue discuss whether Honduras should continue to allow the contra presence here or whether it should expell them from here and accept the proposal presented by the Sandinist government?

[Azcona] The Sandinist government asked us to help it find a way to disarm the contra movement. The contra presence is not a major problem. The counterrevolutionaries stationed in Honduras, whom President Ortega has estimated at 4,000, are only receiving humanitarian aid from the United States. I do not want you to think I am asking for more humanitarian aid for them; I am saying that in terms of Honduran security, it is convenient that the aid reaches those armed contras, because otherwise they could become a serious threat to Honduras.

We have also been clear. Honduras has not [words indistinct], we did not arm the contras and did not install them against the Sandinist government. Honduras will not participate in a disarmament operation unless the contras voluntarily agree to lay down weapons. A disarmament operation will be no more and no less than [words indistinct] with those armed men and then many Hondurans would be killed, and we have no intention of endangering the lives of the Honduran people...[8-second interruption by station announcer]...the level of confrontation and perhaps [words indistinct] they could join the amnesty law and solve the situation in that way.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Azcona] Some [words indistinct] third countries.

[Reporter] Nicolas [words indistinct] said there is no reason to hold a dialogue here, because [words indistinct] seek [words indistinct].

[Azcona] I have maintained an open dialogue [words indistinct] as I have reiterated it every day [words indistinct] and during the 3 years of my government this presidential palace has seen more labor union delegations than in the previous 20 years. We have met with businessmen, teachers' leaders, etc. I have maintained my open door ever since I became Honduran president. In other words, it is not the first time I will meet with businessmen and workers at the same time. We have had to solve many problems through dialogue. We have solved problems between labor unions and employers through dialogue and will continue to do so, because my responsibility is to work for Honduras until 27 January [year not specified], then I will take some vacations and start working again.

[Reporter] Mr President, will the dialogue to discuss the current violence in the country with representatives of the Supreme Court of Justice, politicians, Congress representatives, and Armed Forces men be held in March? I learned you will leave the country on [words indistinct].

[Azcona] Yes, I do not think we will have an opportunity to meet before March. The National Security Council, however, will meet in the next few days to study President Ortega's proposal, because we must give him an answer at the summit in San Salvador next week.

[Reporter] Mr President, what part of present Central American history will be written at the summit next week?

[Azcona] There is no other thing to do, but continue promoting the Esquipulas II agreement. We must continue promoting that agreement, which is not difficult for Honduras to do. We have all freedoms here. We will have free elections this year. The Honduran Government has absolutely no control over the National Electoral Tribunal, for example. The electoral code was amended by the National Congress, which also is not controlled by the Executive Branch. We have no problems here really. Once the contra movement problem is solved, which we think should be solved early this year, Honduras will have no problems in fulfilling Esquipulas II. The other countries have problems, of course.

The Honduran Congress already ratified the creation of the Central American parliament. Honduras has done everything it had to do.

As for the contra movement problem, President Ortega himself reduced its importance by saying there are only 4,000 contras in Honduras and that they are already corpses. It is, therefore, very easy to solve the problem if they are only corpses. One only has to bury them.

Honduras will have no problems in fulfilling and promoting Esquipulas II. We believe we must defend and promote the Esquipulas II agreement.

Armed Forces Deny Plans To Obtain M-60 Tanks

PA1102022489 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces yesterday denied they have plans to obtain approximately 20 U.S-made M-60 tanks, as reported in this capital in an international dispatch.

Asked if this press report is true, Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, official Armed Forces spokesman, categorically said: No.

He noted that the Armed Forces chief command and its Public Relations Directorate are the only offices authorized to give such information and added that any reference at other levels is mere speculation.

Suarez Benavides maintained that this report is not true, because the Armed Forces have not planned to supply its military equipment with these powerful U.S.-made tanks.

He also said the chief command's officers have not made any proposal to obtain this heavy combat equipment.

According to a report in yesterday's issue of a San Pedro Sula newspaper, the Honduran Armed Forces had reportedly planned to acquire these tanks to counter the ground forces power that Nicaragua has with the Soviet-made T-54 and T-55 tanks.

New Consul General to Houston Sworn In

PA0902220589 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 8

[Summary] Acting Honduran Foreign Minister Guillermo Caceres Pineda on 31 January swore in Justo Pastor Calderon as the new consul general to Houston, Texas.

Nicaragua

Ortega Comments on Political, Economic Issues

Speaks on U.S. Relations

PA1302004389 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Feb 89 p D-6

[Report by Alfredo Alvarez on news conference with President Daniel Ortega and unidentified reporters in Caracas; date not given]

[Text] According to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, the conditions needed to conduct a diplomatic offensive to establish a direct dialogue with the new U.S. Government authorities do not currently exist. Ortega said that any such initiative must be based on full respect for Esquipulas II.

During his 2d day in Caracas, Ortega met with the local press several times and with many foreign reporters who are here to cover the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez. Topics such as the foreign debt, the concerted effort that he is trying to promote in his country, and the basic conditions for a dialogue with the contra movement were discussed as extensively as the circumstances allowed in view of the presence of so many reporters.

The Caracas meeting, which brought together many presidents and heads of state, gives Ortega the chance to reach a number of agreements that will benefit other Latin American countries as well. Ortega did not rule out the possibility of agreeing on a date for the Central American presidential summit.

Obviously, the topics to be discussed deal with problems of security in Central America, the drawing up of an agenda that may include the discussion of Latin American economic unity, details on the various foreign debts, and multilateral plans for cooperation in the fields of health and education.

Reporters asked Ortega whether during his talks with Perez, Perez had made his support for him contingent upon greater political openings for the Nicaraguan opposition. Ortega immediately said that "conditioning" was not the most appropriate word, because a peace process cannot tolerate any kind of condition.

As part of his government's willingness to support a broader national dialogue, Ortega said he has already begun a process of economic and social consultation with all the segments of society to save the country's economy.

Regarding the future of relations between the United States and Nicaragua, Ortega vigorously said the conditions for a direct dialogue with the new U.S. Government authorities do not currently exist. Ortega said that although U.S. policy toward Nicaragua did not destroy his country, it did complicate the Latin American situation and it discredited former President Reagan's administration.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about this meeting of Latin American and European heads of state here in Caracas?

[Ortega] I believe it takes place at a historic time and it is a definite step toward Latin American unity. With that unity we could create a common front to discuss sensitive topics, such as the foreign debt, trade exchange, and peace proposals.

[Reporter] Do you think there is a chance for a dialogue between the Nicaraguan Government and the contra movement?

[Ortega] The contras must accept the amnesty law and the country's democratic life. They must participate in our country's normal life.

[Reporter] Do you think your presence in Caracas could encourage that dialogue with the contras?

[Ortega] I came to meet with the various Latin American leaders. The contras must accept the amnesty law and we can talk about that in Nicaragua.

A journalist asked Ortega when the democratic process would be normalized in Nicaragua.

And Ortega replied: For your information, we have a democratic regime in Nicaragua and you can visit my country to confirm it.

[Reporter] Will you soon call for presidential elections in Nicaragua that allow the participation of all political parties?

[Ortega] We held elections in 1984 and seven political parties participated, and that was the first time since 1821—when Nicaragua became independent from Spain—that Nicaraguans enjoyed democratic freedoms.

Nicaraguans in exile and the contras say something different, a reporter said.

[Ortega] That is what the Somozists say. They are obviously not going to say there is democracy in Nicaragua just as the followers of Perez Jimenez [former Venezuelan dictator] here will not say there is democracy in Venezuela.

The reporter added: Not all contras are Somozists.

[Ortega] Yes, but they are victims of a war caused by a great world power. They are not the product of an internal war, but of foreign pressures.

[Reporter] But there are reports about aggression against the Nicaraguan media...

[Ortega] That is the result of the war Nicaragua is waging. During World War II, the United States applied very severe restrictions on some media and many intellectuals were put in jail despite the fact that the United States did not directly suffer the effects of that war.

That is not the case in Nicaragua. In 8 years, 57,000 Nicaraguans have been killed. Proportionally speaking, that would be 2 million Americans who would have been killed. That figure represents more casualties for the United States than it has had in any other war. That gives you an idea of the political and military confrontation the United States is imposing on us.

[Reporter] Have the Sandinists made any mistakes?

[Ortega] The mistakes of a certain country do not give rights to foreign powers to intervene in that country's internal affairs. If we are going to judge Latin American countries by their mistakes, regardless of how democratic they may be, we would be agreeing that the United States has a right to interfere in any Latin American country.

[Reporter] In any case, do you think you could at least attain a basic agreement with the United States?

[Ortega] We are willing to improve our relations with the United States. We are not enemies of the United States; it is the United States that invaded Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Do you think the presence of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle here is a good opportunity to begin walking on the path toward peace?

[Ortega] I think there are no conditions to hold a direct dialogue with the United States just yet.

More on U.S. Relations, Economy

PA1102160889 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1340 GMT 11 Feb 89

["Exclusive" interview with President Daniel Ortega by Pilmeno Ibarra in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ibarra] Ten years have passed since the revolution, and you have not implemented your programs.

[Ortega] Let us say that the revolution has tried to implement its program and that the foundations have been laid. However, the revolution so far has been preoccupied not with implementing its program but with defending itself from a foreign aggression.

[Ibarra] It is being said, Mr President, that your main enemy is the economy, that this is a very difficult battle, and that you are losing the people's support. How do you view this situation?

[Ortega] Without a doubt, the most serious problem facing the Third World countries, including Nicaragua, is the economic problem. Even without the war, Nicaragua would be facing an unstable situation that is common to all Third World countries. Taking into account the war and its harmful effect on the economy, however, it is no surprise that our economic situation is difficult.

But there is a difference. We have made it clear to the people why we have to implement new economic measures this year. Of course, we will pay a political price, because some segments of society do not understand these measures. On the other hand, segments of society that until now have not participated in the revolution will now become part of the revolution because of these measures. What we might lose at one end we might gain at the other.

[Ibarra] Would you say that these measures represent a delay in the struggle for socialism in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] These measures are being implemented to ensure the country's economic survival, to set the basis for the country's development, and to distribute wealth in the future.

[Ibarra] Have you adjusted your revolution to your country's current conditions?

[Ortega] We have adjusted the revolution to Nicaragua's conditions. We must take into account Nicaragua's geopolitical and economic conditions. We do not have a large proletariat, and there is no industrial development. Our society is basically agrarian. This clearly means that the implementation of revolutionary and Sandinist theories as well as the interpretation and implementation of Marxism under our true conditions have to be based on

facts. We have to develop an economic system like the one we are developing. In Nicaragua, carrying out a revolution, being a Marxist, being a revolutionary means doing what we are doing right now. Any effort in another direction would be tantamount to going against the revolution.

[Ibarra] Do you believe that as a result of these changes being made in Nicaragua, the United States will tolerate the Sandinist revolution?

[Ortega] I think the time is coming when the United States will reach an understanding with Nicaragua. How long will it take? I do not know, but as the United States moves toward a dialogue with Latin America, it will be moving toward a dialogue with Nicaragua. As the United States approaches Latin America, it will be approaching Nicaragua. The problem is bigger than a problem of Nicaragua versus the United States. The problem is that Nicaragua is an integral part of Latin America and represents Latin America's interests. So, the situation will be determined by whatever important steps the United States will take toward Latin America.

Comments on Presidents' Summit

PA1102222789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2107 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today that he hopes that the results of the Central American summit in San Salvador on 13-14 February will have the support of Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

"I hope the Bush administration will respect the decisions of the (Central American) presidents," the Nicaraguan president added.

In a news conference in Managua today, Ortega said that the Esquipulas II peace plan, which was signed by the regional presidents in August 1987, is not dead, and that "it will be strengthened by the will of the Central American presidents."

The Nicaraguan president expressed regret that the Foreign Ministers of the region had not been able to reach an agreement on political verification during this week's meeting in New York.

"Nicaragua will propose that the United Nations, the OAS, and individual countries send observers to the elections," Ortega said.

Regarding human rights, the Sandinist leader said categorically that it "is essential that qualified organizations" verify respect for these rights.

"We propose that UN working groups on missing people verify respect for human rights in each of the Central American countries and that they send periodic reports to the foreign ministers," Ortega added.

Another proposal that Nicaragua will submit to the San Salvador summit deals with drug trafficking.

"The drugs are produced in South America and consumed in North America. On the way there, Central America is used as a stopover. Bearing in mind (George) Bush's concern, we propose a mechanism between the United States and Central America to fight drug trafficking," President Ortega said.

Ortega said that economic topics will also be addressed. "Central America will ask the international community for aid." Ecological issues will also be raised, as will Nicaragua's proposal to Honduras to repatriate the contras.

"The proposal that I made to President Jose Azcona in Venezuela should be supported by the U.S. Congress. Our country would view favorably any humanitarian aid to repatriate the contras who are in Honduran territory," Ortega stated.

"It is possible to achieve peace in Central America at this time. The results of the summit will also be positive for the concerted economic and political efforts we are undertaking in Nicaragua," Ortega said in conclusion.

Contras Propose Repatriation, Elections

PA1102234789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1947 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The contras have asked the Nicaraguan Government to permit them to repatriate their forces and to hold constituent assembly elections within 180 days.

These requests are included in the new proposal made by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) to the Daniel Ortega government. The proposal was delivered to Managua on 9 February. Today ACAN-EFE gained access to the proposal, which will be released tomorrow by the contras in this capital.

The RN directorate announced that it will arrive in San Salvador today, 2 days before the Central American summit on 13-14 February.

The contras' proposal states that 10 years of Sandinist government have led to the establishment of a totalitarian system that is influenced from abroad and that is alien to the customs, nationality, and development needs of Nicaraguans.

According to the anti-Sandinists, the "totalitarian state" has caused a crisis, producing in the economic sector "chaos that seems irreversible under Nicaragua's current political and social structure."

They stress that in 1988 inflation reached 23,000 percent, reducing Nicaraguans' purchasing power to the minimum.

In the social sphere, the RN states that more than 500,000 Nicaraguans, representing a little over 20 percent of the total population, have had to leave the country as exiles. In addition, they say that the government forces peasants to relocate so as to control them socially, politically, and militarily.

The anti-Sandinists add that there is religious persecution and that the traditions, beliefs, and culture of ethnic groups are not respected.

In the political sphere, the contras say that the systematic repression of leaders and members of independent political parties and trade union organizations has continued and that there are more than 7,000 political prisoners.

The RN has justified its armed struggle by saying it is the "last resort" for them in the present Nicaraguan situation.

The government's military organization is being developed in an "uncontrolled and disproportionate" manner and it is recruiting peasant youth by force, they alleged.

The "contras" reaffirmed their resolve to negotiate a political solution of the Nicaraguan conflict and demanded that the Sandinists initiate "serious negotiations" immediately.

The RN proposed that the verification and follow-up commission and its members, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and OAS General Secretary Joao Baena Soares, be confirmed.

The "contras" also want the cease-fire to be reestablished by "promptly relocating" its forces into previously established areas in Nicaragua where they will only receive "humanitarian aid."

They demanded that the Sandinists comply with the "Esquipulas II" peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Guatemala on 7 August 1987. The "contras" also want elections for a constituent assembly, disarmament, and the reintegration of its forces into civilian life.

They will accept disarmament if the verification and follow-up commission certifies that the elections for a constituent assembly are "free, impartial, and honest."

The RN also proposed the creation of a national reconstruction commission to be composed of representatives from the government, opposition, labor, and the private sector. The commission's task is to normalize relations with third countries and international organizations.

In conclusion, the "contra" proposal urges both parties to commit themselves to the establishment of "a national, non-partisan, military force."

Government Plans Canal Construction With Japan

PA1002183989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government announced today that it plans to build an interoceanic canal. The canal would link the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and would run through the San Juan River and Lake Nicaragua, it was officially reported.

Nicaraguan Finance Minister William Hupper said a national commission will be created to manage the project. He also said a group of Japanese scientists and businessmen would come to Nicaragua next month to begin a feasibility study of the project.

To 'Complement' Panama Canal

PA1002213389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1957 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—A member of the national commission for the construction of a canal in Nicaragua has said that a future Nicaraguan Canal, which will link the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, will not compete with the Panama Canal.

Nicaraguan Engineer Cesar Delgadillo told ACAN-EFE that the Nicaraguan Government plans to build a canal that will complement the Panama Canal, "because the latter has a limited structure that does not allow the transit of ships of large draft."

Delgadillo said, "We are resurrecting the old idea of building a canal in Nicaragua, because there are certain technical conditions that favor the construction of such a project here in Nicaragua."

Delgadillo added that this "is a very large multinational project, in which several countries are participating."

The National Commission for the Construction of the Nicaragua Canal is headed by Nicaraguan Finance Minister William Hupper, who officially announced today the beginning of preliminary studies for the construction of an interoceanic canal.

In addition to Delgadillo, the commission includes Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Netherlands Carlos Arguello, and Foreign Ministry adviser Augusto Zamora.

The commission also includes Forest Corporation Director Luis Fiallos, Natural Resources Director Jairo Rodriguez, Territorial Studies Institute Director Alejandro Rodriguez, Engineering University Rector Edgar Herrera, and Biologists and Ecologists Association President Juan Montiel.

Roberto Lacayo, president of the Engineers and Architects Association, and Salvador Montenegro, director of marine resources at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, are also members of the commission.

Gorbachev Letter Thanks Ortega, Country

PA1202150089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p 5

[Letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to President Daniel Ortega; issued at the Kremlin, Moscow, on 4 February]

[Text] Kremlin, Moscow
4 February 1989
Comrade Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President of the Republic of Nicaragua
Managua

Dear Comrade Ortega:

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and all our people, we hereby express to the Nicaraguan people, the FSLN, the Nicaraguan Government, and to you personally, our sincere gratitude for your friendly expressions of sympathy and solidarity and for your material aid on occasion of the tragic Armenian earthquake.

In spite of Nicaragua's serious difficulties, your country has made great efforts to help the victims of the natural disaster. We highly appreciate this truly fraternal and unselfish gesture by the Nicaraguan people, who on more than one occasion have endured cataclysms.

The suffering of Armenia has been shared by all people of the world. We have witnessed how mankind is capable of uniting to face the blind forces of nature. This unity and the realization that no one is unaware of the common destiny of civilization must be factors capable of producing, in all nations, an attitude in favor of resolving today's general problems.
Respectfully yours,
M. Gorbachev

Soviet Envoy Delivers Donation to Bluefields

PA1002224289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Valeriy Nikolayenko yesterday delivered 23 tons of educational equipment for the Naval Academy in Bluefields, Special Zone No 2.

Fisheries Minister Luis Lacayo received the donation and expressed appreciation for the cooperation given by the Soviet Union in the area.

The Soviet ambassador said there are 100 Nicaraguan students being trained in fishing techniques in his country. The Soviet Union also donated more than $3 million to promote fishing in our country. The donated equipment includes three cold storage trucks that will be used to carry fish to storage centers.

This donation will benefit the Masachapa and San Juan del Sur cooperatives in the special zone and in other areas where fishing is a tradition.

Communist Party Leader on Meetings With Ortega

PA1002163289 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report on interview with Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Communist Party has declined an invitation extended by Prof Natan Sevilla for a meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Comrade Eli Altamirano Perez, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua, said that he spoke over the telephone to Prof Natan Sevilla, who invited him to meet with President Daniel Ortega. Altamirano said he declined because the group of 14 political opposition parties had decided not to participate; however, some of the parties participated in meetings with Ortega as a result of separate decisions made by their parties.

[Begin recording] [Altamirano] I believe that at this critical time for our country, great opportunities are arising for a great, democratic, civic, and patriotic solution. I believe that it has been very difficult for the government to move toward [word indistinct]. If we love our fatherland and if we hope to achieve peace, democracy, and a solution to the crisis, we cannot allow the government to continue manipulating our great tasks in any way. None of the 14 parties accepts this. We especially reject bilateral talks or meetings prior to the Central American presidential summit.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Altamirano] Last night during a meeting of the 14 parties, which included the Social Democratic Party and all the other parties, we agreed that there had been a mistake. A joint resolution contained in a communique publicly states the determination of the 14 parties not to participate in any bilateral dialogue and much less a bilateral negotiation. It also states that the national dialogue should be resumed after the presidential summit. This was a joint decision made by the 14 parties last night after the president held his meetings.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Altamirano] We were invited to that meeting, but we declined to have the 14 parties determine our position for us. The 14 parties had stated that we were all willing

to participate in a dialogue but that it should take place after the presidential summit. Therefore, that is my party's position and I believe it is also the position of the 14 parties.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Altamirano] I cannot speak for each party on that matter. I understand that they were not aware of the decision of the 14 parties and some of them decided to participate; however, I believe that this is being reconsidered by each of the 14 parties. [end recording]

PCDN Explains Nonparticipation in Talks

PA1102013089 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua (PCDN) in Managua on 9 February]

[Text] The undersigned, on behalf of the PCDN, announce to our members and the general public that because of ethical reasons and political commitments, the PCDN did not attend the bipartisan dialogue to which it was invited by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

We hope this clarifies any confusion that may exist in this regard, a confusion created by local newspapers.

At the same time, we believe this dialogue with other civic opposition parties and groups paves the way for circumstances that may lead to a national dialogue—a dialogue the Nicaraguan people have been demanding to solve our national problems—as long as the parties show political maturity and willingness to attain this goal.
Managua, 9 February
[Signed] Hernaldo Zuniga M., national president
Francisco Jose Duarte T., political secretary
God, Order, and Justice, PCDN!

COSEP President on National Dialogue

PA1002165189 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Ramiro Gurdian, president of the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, and the UPANIC [Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua], has stressed that no agreement has been reached with the government and that only in a national dialogue in which the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] is allowed to participate will the groups he represents be willing to meet with President Daniel Ortega.

Gurdian, who called for a meeting yesterday with all opposition political parties, was questioned by a large number of journalists who overwhelmed him with questions following the meeting.

Some pro-Sandinist journalists continuously asked him about an agreement, but Ramiro Gurdian emphatically responded that no agreement has been reached and that only in a national dialogue would they be willing to talk to Daniel Ortega.

Here we have the statements made by Gurdian after being questioned by a large number of journalists.

[Begin recording] [Reporters] How did the meeting go?

[Gurdian] The meeting was held to inform the private sector, political parties, and labor unions of the talks we held with the government for the purpose of seeking a consensus among all Nicaraguan politicians and workers in view of the serious crisis in the country. It was basically an exchange of information.

[Reporter] Is the agreement beneficial for both the government and private enterprise?

[Gurdian] We have clearly said that no agreement has been reached. I repeat: No agreement has been reached between the government and the private sector. What we have said is that there should be a national dialogue with the participation of all sectors—including the RN, the political parties, and private enterprise—so we can talk and get Nicaragua out of this problem. An agreement of the type the FSLN wants—an economic, social agreement—is not possible. That is not going to solve the problem and that is our position.

[Reporter] Are you, as a member of the private sector, interested in solving the country's economic problems?

[Gurdian] I do not believe the FSLN is interested in improving the situation in Nicaragua because if they were seriously interested in solving the problems, they would be approaching the situation in a more general manner and not on a sectorial basis.

[Reporter] What do you think of the meeting held between the political parties and President Ortega?

[Gurdian] We were informed of the meeting. Some political parties went to listen to Ortega and they exchanged viewpoints, but there has been no agreement of any sort.

[Reporter] Is a dialogue possible between the COSEP and the Sandinist government?

[Gurdian] We have said before that we see no problem in holding a meeting of this kind.

[Reporter] A dialogue between the top COSEP leaders and the government?

[Gurdian] We see no problem in holding this kind of meeting; however, there will be no economic agreement because that is not the solution. If that were the solution, we would be willing to reach such an agreement.

[Reporter] What is the solution for Nicaragua?

[Gurdian] The solution is to hold a dialogue with the participation of all sectors.

[Reporter] What do you think would be the result of this kind of a dialogue?

[Gurdian] Many solutions could be found on how to deal with problems.

[Reporter] There have been many dialogues and they have been unsuccessful.

[Gurdian] You are right. The FSLN has made them fail. We want a dialogue in which everyone can participate.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gurdian] We want a climate of peace and tranquillity in Nicaragua, but to achieve that we need unity.

[Reporter] Are you willing to [word indistinct]?

[Gurdian] If everyone participates, yes. I want to see the contras, the FSLN, and our representatives sitting down at the negotiating table. We are willing to do that. [end recording]

Parliament Unanimously Approves 1989 Budget

PA1202002489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2057 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Rodrigo Reyes, president of the judicial branch, reported today that the Nicaraguan Parliament, in its first debate, unanimously approved the 1989 general fiscal budget, which includes a 20 percent reduction in military expenditures and a readjustment of the Justice Ministry's budget.

After 2 days of discussions, the Parliament on Friday approved the budget by a vote of 57 to 0. By request of a parliamentary commission, the budget was increased from 285,507,200,000 cordobas ($60 million) to 301,267,000,000 ($70 million).

The new budget reduces Defense Ministry expenditures by 20 percent with an allocation of 77,721,000,000 cordobas ($16 million). Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry budget is reduced by 40 percent with an allocation of 35,068,000,000 cordobas ($9 million).

So far, national budget cuts have already resulted in the dismissal of about 30,000 public employees, including policemen and Army soldiers.

Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, minister of planning and budget, explained last week that some 10,000 Armed Forces members, 13,000 policemen, and an additional 7,000 public employees will be dismissed.

The Parliament accepted the motion of several government and opposition deputies to increase the Justice Ministry's budget, which had been affected by cuts in state expenditures.

This increase, according to the deputies who presented the motion, will come from the "incidental expenses fund" of 21.38 billion cordobas ($5 million).

According to official sources, had the judicial branch's budget not been increased, a considerable number of courts would have been forced to close within the next few days.

The Parliament accepted the request of a majority of the deputies to review the budgets of the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

About 500 INETER technicians and professionals will be dismissed this month as a result of drastic budget cuts. No figure was given.

By cutting the budget, the Nicaraguan Government is trying to reduce the fiscal deficit, estimated to be $16 billion.

Interior Ministry Announces 40-Percent Cut

PA1002180489 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Deputy Interior Minister Rene Vivas has announced that immigration and alien services outside Managua have been eliminated, personnel have been reduced, and some services and programs for soldiers and recruits have been cut as part of the Interior Ministry's 40 percent budget reduction.

Vivas said that all immigration services will be conducted in Managua as of 17 February. The reduction has also affected some administrative services. Police and state security agencies will be retained, although they have been partially affected, Vivas said.

Other reductions took place in cadres, the political sector, office workers, transportation, supply, weapons, and machinery and equipment purchases. The SINACOI [National Fire Prevention System] closed two units. Criminal pardons are being discussed, Commander Vivas said, because the ministry can no longer afford to house so many prisoners.

Assembly Recommends Deficit-Reduction Measures

PA1002185789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly's Economy, Finance, and Budget Commission, which has concluded its work on the budget bill presented by President Daniel Ortega, believes it is necessary to increase the proposed budget by 16.5 billion cordobas. The commission also believes that some budget funds should be reallocated to other agencies and that a considerable increase in regular and tax revenues is necessary.

Commission President Nathan Sevilla said these budget reallocations and increases in regular and tax revenues will further reduce the fiscal deficit foreseen in the budget bill. These budget changes will be made possible, as authorized by the Finance Ministry, through the income in U.S. dollars from Inturismo [Nicaraguan Institute for Tourism], Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], and taxes that the Finance Ministry collects in U.S. currency. This foreign exchange will become an important source of income after it is converted into cordobas at the parallel exchange rate.

The commission's report, which is considered a proposal by the FSLN because opposition deputies did not contribute to the report, includes various recommendations. However, the commission leaves the Executive Branch free to reallocate funds to agencies, such as the Supreme Court of Justice and Ineter [Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies], that are affected by budget cuts.

The Sandinist proposal, a copy of which will be given to all National Assembly representatives so they can study it, calls on the Assembly to begin the debates on the budget by 7 February, a date established by law.

Panama

TV Station Reports Incident With U.S. Convoy

PA1102000889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2337 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Televisora Nacional reporters last night were able to witness another of the continual treaty violations by U.S. Army troops when a convoy was stopped by customs and Panama Defense Forces officials because the Army vehicles did not have Panamanian Military Police escorts, as required by the canal treaties.

According to the Torrijos-Carter agreements, U.S. troops can only be deployed inside Panamanian territory after coordination with Panamanian authorities and if they are escorted by Panamanian military policemen. This is a provision that is systematically violated in a clear attempt at provocation.

As our viewers can see, once the U.S. soldiers realized our journalists were there, they began to flash powerful beams on our camera's lens to obstruct the work of Panamanian journalists.

A Panamanian military officer said the vehicles had been stopped for traveling without any coordination with the Joint Committee and for not having a Panamanian police escort. They were waiting for U.S. liaison officers to settle a problem created by this violation of treaties by U.S. troops.

A U.S. military officer, dressed in civilian clothes, uttered a vulgar insult when he realized that we were recording his voice [man's voice can be heard in background saying in English: "That thing has sound, then f... off"], thus showing the Americans' customary arrogance of Panamanian authorities and journalists. This incident is a link in the chain of treaty violations constantly reported by the Panamanian Government.

4 Arrested in San Jose Weapons Confiscation

PA1002193989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica (Special Service)—San Jose has been shaken by the recent discovery of a cache of large caliber weapons in the home of Panamanian citizen Jose Manuel Echevers, who was arrested along with Nicaraguan Edward Wilson Hodgson and Costa Ricans Julio Antonio and Eduardo Esquivel Peralta.

The weapons include RPG-7 rocket launchers, capable of damaging armored vehicles. They also include large caliber machineguns, M-16, G-3, M-14, M-76, and M-79 rifles, and a large amount of 7.62- and 5.56-mm bullets.

The same Jose Manuel Echevers used to operate the San Vito coffee mill, which was destroyed in an explosion on 9 September 1988. There was speculation at the time that the explosion could have resulted from mishandling explosives hidden in the factory, but this was emphatically denied by Echevers. However, the fact that Echevers was involved in this new criminal action establishes beyond a doubt that he was indeed engaged in weapons trafficking in Costa Rican territory.

Echevers is Eric Arturo Delvalle's close friend and associate. He is a fugitive from Panamanian law and has been charged with the 30 July 1988 robbery of the Banco Exterior in David, Chiriqui. He has also been accused of drug trafficking.

The house containing the weapons is on La Maquina Street in the San Rafael de Coronado section of San Jose. There is much speculation in the San Jose media as to whether weapons are being smuggled into Panama.

Most of the weapons and ammunition are U.S.-manufactured and are similar to those used by the Nicaraguan "contras," who are waging a war against the Sandinist government. The contras receive their weapons from their U.S. allies by various means.

Tomas Zamora, editor of the Costa Rican newspaper LA NACION, has reported that according to Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar, the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) will be in charge of investigating the case. Garron described the case as "extremely confusing and delicate."

Authorities will resort to every means available to determine who owns the weapons and where they come from. The possibility of further arrests as a result of the ongoing investigations has not been ruled out.

COLINA Candidate Duque on Nomination

PA1002180789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Feb 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Text] Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen yesterday issued his first public statement after being formally named presidential candidate. He addressed a group of Panamanian journalists and said he was deeply grateful for the efforts of the many activities of the various political parties that comprise the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA]. Their efforts made it possible to hold eight successful conventions amid the traditional Carnival celebrations.

Unity for Victory

Duque Jaen emphasized that he believed and continues to believe that thousands upon thousands of Panamanians understand and know that our future is at stake. We will either be a U.S. colony or a nation—independent and attacked but sure of its destiny. He added that the main reason for his ticket's victory is that it is based on that collective belief and on the unity of all the groups. Duque stressed that these groups will not allow apathy or disappointment within their ranks, because they are fulfilling a phase of Panamanian history by marching toward the electoral challenge, which demands a fighting spirit from all its men and women to win the battle they are waging.

Those Who Were Not Chosen

Asked about those who had a legitimate right to seek the candidacy but were not chosen, Mr Carlos Alberto Duque stated: "Valuable people have been selected to run for positions as legislators or representatives in a broad democratic process. Others who were equally qualified did not receive decisive support but their conduct as exemplary Torrijists will allow them to participate in the liberation process by holding important positions within our government."

Type of Elections

Likewise, Duque stated that the people have to understand that we have not embarked on a traditional electoral process to seek personal gain. Quite the contrary, we will overcome all kinds of obstacles to fulfill the constitutional mandate that calls for the renewal of our political and public positions every 5 years. Duque asserted: "Furthermore, with the best interests of our homeland in mind, we understand that it was impossible to choose all those who deserved to be chosen. We must now become united. There will be new goals to accomplish in the new government. Estrangements and resentments would preclude the achievement of our goals and would relegate us to foreign domination forever."

Addresses PALA Convention

PA1002181189 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p 3

[Report on statement by COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Alberto Duque to Labor Party Convention; date and place not given]

[Text] The parties that make up COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] are beginning the campaign, and we are winning with the enthusiasm and patriotic zeal that the members of each convention have shown. I assure you that we will be able to meet the four basic goals we have proposed: national liberation, total sovereignty, compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and national unity. We will win with the support of all Panamanians who love their fatherland.

Presidential candidate Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen made the above statement when he addressed the Labor Party [PALA] convention.

The COLINA presidential candidate referred to the aggression, the blockade, and the withholding of taxes by the U.S. Government that allows some Panamanians to use these funds for their personal benefit while promoting unemployment and unrest in the country.

Carlos Duque referred to the canal treaties and said that none of the pressures exerted against Panama will result in a revision [of the treaties]. He added that there have been attempts to disguise these attacks against our country's economy, but they will not work, because the Panamanian people are becoming more united every day and are determined to remove the last vestige of colonialism.

"We must break the ties of economic dependence, which are used as an excuse by some for yielding. In order to do this, it is absolutely necessary that we diversify our economic relations among all markets that are open to trade with Panama," Carlos Duque said. He later made appearances at the various conventions of the COLINA parties, where he received wide popular acclaim.

COLINA's Boyd on U.S. Senator's Visit

PA1002212389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report on interview with Aquilino Boyd, candidate for second vice president on the National Liberation Coalition ticket, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Aquilino Boyd, candidate for second vice president for the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, said that U.S. Senator Durenberger's recent visit to Panama, during which he met only with Panamanian opposition politicians, shows that the United States is meddling in Panamanian affairs.

[Boyd] It is obvious that Durenberger is participating in the psychological war the United States is waging against our country. Our country is an island of peace in a sea of violence. Durenberger will have to realize that it is thanks to the Panama Defense Forces that our country respects order, stability, and the rights of its citizens.

Because these facts are not publicized in the United States, it is very good that U.S. senators visit Panama to see the situation for themselves. The Panamanian Government anxiously hopes this peace will continue over the next 3 months of political campaigning leading to a free, honest, and fair election process that will take us toward the perfection of our democracy.

[Reporter] You have always been well-known for your liberal convictions. How do you feel about the current government's interest in expanding its relations with communist countries?

[Boyd] Having liberal principles implies believing in public freedoms. We are convinced that free enterprise is the best way to achieve Panama's economic development. I strongly believe we must insist that all Panamanians and foreigners living in Panama uphold these liberal principles.

On Relations With U.S.

PA1002212589 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report on interview with OAS Ambassador Aquilino Boyd, current National Liberation Coalition candidate for second vice president, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Former Foreign Affairs Minister Aquilino Boyd today reiterated that the Torrijos-Carter treaties are sacred. He added that if the United States keeps President George Bush's word and respects the treaties, then a rapprochement between Panama and the United States is possible and could result in a restoration of normal relations between the two countries.

Boyd added that Panama has never withdrawn the charge of aggression it leveled against the United States after the painful events of 1964 and said that the U.S. sanctions against Panama mostly affect the Panamanian people.

[Boyd] "Panama has expressed a desire to normalize relations with the United States. As they say very commonly in the United States: It takes two to tango. In Spanish, that means that both you and your partner have to be willing to reach an understanding based on respect, understanding, harmony, and cooperation. We at the OAS have repeatedly requested that Secretary Baena Soares ask U.S. Ambassador [Richard T.] McCormack [Permanent U.S. Representative to the OAS] to talk with us to explore new paths toward a rapprochement between the people and Governments of Panama and the United States. Our people and governments both have vital interests in the Panama Canal, yet we have become more and more distant thanks to the ridiculous and absurd attitude of Mr Reagan's administration."

Boyd also discussed the pressure exerted on Panama by the United States.

[Boyd] "The United States has politicized the whole Panama Canal issue. A case in point is that it has withheld canal payments to Panama, even though the treaties stipulate that the United States is obligated to make these payments to Panama. The United States has also withheld income tax and social security payments deducted from Panama Canal workers' salaries. I have heard, however, that the United States has lately been passing the canal workers' social security deductions to the Panamanian Government. I think all Panamanians are clearly aware that a nationalist government—such as our current government, headed by President Solis Palma—cannot tolerate this kind of pressure."

Endara on Opposition Victory, Durenberger Visit

PA1002213089 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Interview with Guillermo Endara, presidential candidate of the Civic Democratic Opposition, by an unidentified reporter in Panama City, , date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] People must achieve their own democracy and liberties.

[Reporter] The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] presidential candidate says this is the campaign message he will take to the entire nation. In the near future, he adds, he will visit low-cost housing areas impoverished by the current uncertainty that prevails within the government.

Endara, an optimist, feels an opposition victory is imminent.

[Endara] We are organizing a campaign that will make these 90 days a great struggle on the people's behalf, a struggle for democracy, liberty, and justice. We are organizing campaign visits and tours to the interior, targetting metropolitan areas such as Colon, Panama, La Chorrera, San Miguelito, and Arraijan. These tours will carry our message of democracy, liberty, and justice to every corner of the country.

[Reporter] Some sectors argue that if you win the May elections you may renegotiate the treaties.

[Endara] That is totally false, absolutely false. The opposition and ADOC are firmly committed to respecting and ensuring respect for the 1977 Panama Canal treaties. This means that Panama and the United States must fulfill the treaties and that the United States must withdraw its troops and turn the canal over to Panama by the year 2000.

[Reporter] When asked about the meeting he will hold today with U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger, Endara responded that politicians discuss the problems that affect a nation.

[Endara] I have met with senators on various occasions, and our conversations have usually been of a professional and political nature. As senators, they are primarily interested in discussing Panama's situation, liberties, general policies, and elections. I would describe their interest as semiprofessional—as the interest one politician displays toward a fellow politician. I would also compare our conversations with those that take place between politicians and foreign reporters. Foreign reporters come to Panama and ask questions about Panama's general situation. The senators are similarly interested in knowing what is going on in Panama. I do not foresee or expect any message whatsoever from them. The talks that may take place will be between two politicians, one from the United States and one from Panama.

ADOC's 2d VP Candidate on 7 May Elections

PA1102003389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice presidential candidate of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC], by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ford]...Latin American and European democracies, so we can count on having international observers before, during, and after the elections. These observers can serve as a guarantee in the elections so the elections will be what the Panamanian people truly want.

[Reporter] Were the main ADOC candidates able to meet with the U.S. Vice President?

[Ford] No, we did not have the opportunity, but it was not our intention to meet with him. We are Latin Americanizing the Panamanian problem, because the national government has been trying to sell the idea abroad that the opposition depends on the United States to win the elections. I want to remind the national government that the demagogy they are using is only falling on deaf ears and is being ignored because the Panamanian opposition is genuinely Panamanian, the votes are in Panama, and we will be a majority on 7 May.

[Reporter] Why do you insist there will probably be a fraud in these elections?

[Ford] I have never used that word and feel there will be no fraud because of one single reason: the opposition has the majority of the votes. We will go to the polls optimistically and if the mistake were made or if there were the vague idea of committing fraud, our people, led by the three opposition candidates, would become the vanguard in defending our electoral victory.

[Reporter] Do you think that if the idea is sold about a possible fraud in the elections, there will be voter abstention, without precedence, in Panama's republican history?

[Ford] I feel that it is counterproductive to talk of fraud or that there are no conditions for the elections. I have always been a person who feels that, confronted with adversity, the men and women of the world must become stronger. Our struggle is difficult but not impossible. We will carry out that struggle. We will not permit the fraud, and it is the last time I mention that word. We will win on 7 May.

[Reporter] Is there a consensus within ADOC to present a single ticket for other positions chosen by popular vote?

[Ford] That was already achieved in all the circuits where nominations have to be made. That matter was already discussed by our alliance, and the candidates were nominated on 7 February as established in the electoral code. The opposition has a monolithic unity concerning the candidates and the goals that we are pursuing, including the government platform, which we are to announce in a few days.

PDC's Arias on Importance of Perez' Statements

PA1002221989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party leader Ricardo Arias Calderon by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias] Christian Democracy International reiterated the need to ensure the total existence of human rights, particularly freedom of the press, as a condition for free and honest elections in Panama. Christian

Democracy International offered its support before the international community and offered to send observers to ensure that the upcoming elections, rather than being another confrontation among rival Panamanians, can contribute to Panama's democratization and, by way of democracy, to a reconciliation among Panamanians.

[Reporter] Dr Arias, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez recently made serious statements concerning Panama's internal political situation. We would like to hear your opinion on this.

[Arias] I think that Carlos Andres Perez' statements are extremely important. The Latin American heads of state—such as Carlos Andres Perez, Daniel Oduber, and others—who helped our country secure the Torrijos-Carter treaties so the Canal would really be ours, were convinced when they did so that the Panamanian people had two big rights: the right to own the Panama Canal and the right to have democracy. They knew democracy was the best guarantee for the canal treaties to be fulfilled and for the Panama Canal to be recovered in a useful and beneficial manner for Panamanians, according to the treaties. Now they realize that the commitment acquired by the General Omar Torrijos regime to democratize our country is not being fulfilled.

PRD's Gomez Claims 'Interference' by Perez

PA1002221289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Interview with the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] legislator Luis Gomez by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gomez] As in the case of the United States, we cannot allow any country or head of state from Latin America or any other part of the world to interfere in Panama's internal affairs. Simon Bolivar was a great Latin American statesman, but Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has a long way to go before he resembles Bolivar. In addition, we feel that by comparison, Venezuela's problems are too big for Perez to be making decisions concerning Panama.

We respect Carlos Andres Perez' stature as head of state, but we cannot allow him to interfere in our internal affairs. Through its own means, Panama is searching for solutions to its problems. We are entering an electoral phase in which the opposition parties and the parties that support the government are going to have to face the people's decision as to who will preside over the government for the next 5 years.

Regarding General Noriega's case, it is not under discussion. We feel he is discharging his duties in accordance with the provisions of Law 20; this time, I regret to say, we disagree with Carlos Andres Perez.

[Reporter] Legislator Gomez, if we look back a few months, Panamanian officials asked Venezuelan politicians for help as mediators in the Panamanian situation.

[Gomez] I think there was a need to talk with Venezuelan parties with an affinity for the PRD and with friends who agree with our political party. We did not seek the influence of these Venezuelan parties or politicians to meddle in Panamanian domestic affairs. We were involved in a coordination effort during Venezuela's electoral period.

We can say something similar now when Panama sent a PRD delegation to Perez' inauguration to exchange views with the Socialist International—the international organization of Social Democrats—seeking advice, not to solve Panama's domestic problems but to solve Latin American problems.

Electoral Tribunal Rejects Correa's Candidacy

PA1002224389 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p 9

[From the unattributed "Political Gossip" column]

[Text] According to Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP] sources, the legislative candidacy of Mayin Correa [former Labor Party legislator] was rejected because of her current residence abroad.

In view of that situation, her brother, Rodrigo Canita Correa, a well-known commercial advertising producer, will run for the post of legislator instead of her.

By application of the same regulation, Alberto Conte [opposition leader in exile] or any other opposition leader residing abroad will not be accepted as a candidate by TEP.

TEP To Invite Observers for Elections

PA1102185589 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p 10

[Text] At a news conference yesterday, Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP] President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez announced that "the TEP did not receive any documents or queries" from Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma asking whether he could be a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections.

Pulice de Rodriguez reported that the TEP will invite Central American and Caribbean observers to the 7 May elections in accordance with an agreement signed with the Electoral Advisory and Promotion Center (CAPEL) in 1985.

CAPEL is an organization for international cooperation formed by Central American and Caribbean representatives to promote representative democracy and a free, universal, and secret vote.

Pulice de Rodriguez added that the political parties can, as in 1984, invite international observers, because "the TEP has always worked openly."

As for the nomination of candidates, Pulice de Rodriguez said she has "many documents" that will be "processed" by Tuesday.

Pulice de Rodriguez disclosed that the TEP reduced the cost of the upcoming elections by almost 50 percent.

She said that in January the government gave the TEP 600,000 balboas in cash and logistical support worth 1 million balboas, which included vehicles, fuel, film, stationery, chemicals, and employees.

Pulice de Rodriguez also announced that Panamanians currently living abroad will not be allowed to vote at Panamanian embassies. The TEP president added that Panamanians living abroad can only vote if they appear on the voters list and if they come back to live in Panama.

Pulice de Rodriguez said that in the May elections the TEP will use separate ballots for each category: president, the two vice presidents, legislators, and corregimiento representatives.

She added that it is estimated each voter will spend 3 minutes at the most inside the voting booth to cast his or her vote.

PALA President Comments on FDP, Elections

PA1102020589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Feb 89 pp 1, B-9

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Labor Party (PALA) President Juan Medrano told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday that "the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) are playing an important and decisive role in the country's destiny; it is neither uncouth nor ignorant."

Medrano noted that the FDP has been working side by side with the civilians "for a long time, and its role is very important" from now to the year 2000.

Commenting on the upcoming 7 May general elections, Medrano stated that PALA is mustering votes to enable the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) "to lead us to full national independence for the next 10 years."

"The upcoming elections are very important, because the country's future is at stake and we are struggling to continue the national liberation process," he added.

The PALA leader stated that his party will duplicate its political presence at the ballot boxes, just 5 years after it was formed and despite experiencing internal strife over control of the party. Carlos Eleta, one of PALA's original organizers, was removed during the strife.

PALA was formed in 1983 and obtained 46,000 votes in the last presidential elections. Also, 7 legislators and 59 corregimiento representatives were elected during the last elections.

Medrano added that PALA is presently "well organized" and has 100,000 official members. For the upcoming election, PALA has 500 candidates for corregimiento representative and legislative candidates in each of the 40 electoral districts.

"We have the best credentials, a well-balanced political platform, human resources, and a desire to serve the country and struggle for Panamanians' well-being," said Medrano. He did not rule out the possibility PALA may become the country's most important political force in the future.

Duque Condemns Televisora Nacional Bombing

PA1102175089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party National Executive Committee and presidential candidate of the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, has strongly condemned the terrorist attack against the Televisora Nacional studios. Duque emphasized that the blood of terrorism cannot be allowed to stain the election campaign.

In a statement to the local media, Duque said Televisora Nacional was attacked to silence COLINA and to instill fear among the population. He added that the election campaign will not be stained by the blood of terrorism, because terrorism is alien to the Panamanian people and is rejected by most Panamanians.

Duque said COLINA will continue its mass campaign to get the votes it deserves for guaranteeing that the liberation process will be completed. Duque added that terrorism, which always affects innocent victims, will not succeed in halting our struggle to achieve the people's goals. Duque noted that COLINA is like a mountain of unyielding resolve that has the people's goals at its peak and that will never allow itself to be swept away by violence.

Investment Agreement With FRG Ratified

PA1202132189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Summary] An important agreement signed by Panama and the FRG for the promotion and reciprocal protection of capital investments was ratified today when the two governments exchanged ratification documents. The agreement will go into effect in 30 days.

Health Official Reports on AIDS Cases

PA1202132489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Feb 89 pp 1, 3-A

[Summary] Dr Agustin Luna, Health Ministry secretary general, yesterday reported 101 AIDS cases have been registered. He added that 59 have resulted in death.

Argentina

Foreign Ministry on British Plans in Uruguay

PY1102013189 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0120 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (TELAM)—Tonight, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reported that it is "in permanent contact" with the Uruguayan Government to "establish the characteristics" of the landing of a British military plane at the Carrasco Airport [in Montevideo].

In a communique, the Argentine Foreign Ministry states that "Uruguayan authorities are at this time supplying to the Argentine Government all the information they have available on the circumstances surrounding this landing and on other issues that are of interest to our country."

According to the communique, the plane was "en route to the Malvinas Islands."

Government Rejects Chilean Border Complaint

PY1002230689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2105 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb—The Argentine Governemnt today rejected Chile's complaint regarding the construction of a shelter for the Patagonia Continental Ice National Institute, which is part of the Technical and Scientific Investigation National Council (CONICET). It has been officially reported that the shelter was built in the region between Lake San Martin and Fitz Roy Hill, in Santa Cruz Province.

In a communique, the Argentine Foreign Ministry has reported that, "as the Argentine-Chilean Border committee has not ended its delimitation task in the region," it has been agreed that the Committee's technical work be accelerated to end the dispute.

The dispute is a result of both countries' claims regarding the border on the continental ice covering the top of the local high mountains. This ice is used to establish the border in other regions.

This is the first dispute between Argentina and Chile regarding its long common border since the 1984 Peace and Friendship Treaty was signed to end a border conflict over the Beagle Channel, which almost started a war between the two countries.

The communique states:

"The Argentine Government reports that it has received a protest note from the Chilean Government regarding the construction, some time ago, of a shelter for the Patagonia Continental Ice National Institute, which is part of the CONICET, in the region between Lake San Martin and Fitz Roy Hill.

"That shelter was built to support the institute's scientific work. On 8 February 1989, the Chilean Government protest note was answered and its terms were rejected, because the shelter was built in Argentine territory.

"The Argentine-Chilean Border Committee, however, has not ended its delimiation tasks in the region. As a result, and in order to find a definitive solution to this problem, the two parties have agreed to speed up the remaining technical work, and they have established a working schedule, which is already being implemented.

"Inspired by the noble objectives of the Peace and Friendship Treaty, the two countries have expressed their wish to find a solution to this dispute."

Finance Secretary Brodersohn Returns From Japan

PY0902022589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn has returned from Japan. At Ezeiza Airport, Brodersohn said his trip to Tokyo was not related to the sale of the Argentine Embassy in that city. I attended a meeting between the Japanese Government and the Eximbank, during which the role of private investments and foreign debt issues were discussed, he said.

Communique Issued on U.S. Biological Tests

PY0902182989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1034 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (DYN)—The Public Health and Social Action Ministry has officially explained that the research being performed by the U.S. Army on Argentine citizens infected with the hemorrhagic virus has the "firm sponsorship and support" of the Argentine Government. It was stressed that the experiments are being performed on behalf of the Argentine authorities.

In a news conference released on 8 February, the Health Ministry reacted to international press agency reports, disseminated the day before, to the effect that some 6,000 Argentines who suffer from hemorrhagic fever are being used as guinea pigs for testing a treatment against the effects of biological weapons.

The report, which was released by U.S. Army Colonel David Huxsoll, concerns Argentine citizens who suffer from the disease and who, according to the U.S. officer have been injected with experimental vaccines to see whether the sufferers develop defensive systems against that type of local endemic disease. This research is being conducted because it is believed that future biological weapons will use naturally occurring mortal viruses.

The communique explains that the disease affects Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, and Cordoba Provinces, and provides details of the experiments that were performed over the past few years in Argentina.

The communique adds that virologist Guillermo Barrera Oro began studies on the drug in 1978 in Argentina, and that "for operational reasons, he continued his work at a U.S. Army medical research institute at Fort Detrick, Maryland."

The communique states that the research "had the firm sponsorship and support of successive federal Argentine authorities and of the authorities of the affected provinces."

The communique adds that the tests, which have been endorsed by the National Committee of Ethics of the National Institute of Studies on Hemorrhagic Virus Diseases, "are in their final experimental stage, a task that has been made possible by the generous and active participation of some 6,000 volunteers in the affected areas."

Finally, the communique notes that the cooperation extended by the institute headed by Col Huxsoll "has been vital and decisive for performing the experiment," stressing that "as an example of the [words indistinct] country was tested on U.S. volunteers, who were chosen from among institute employees, to confirm that the drug is harmless."

* 1989 Exports Estimated To Be $9.9 Billion

33480094b Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Dec 88 p 12

[Text] The recovery of the balance of trade in 1988 is due as much to the increase in farm exports and related manufactures as to the important growth of industrial exports.

In the first case, this result stems from the combined factors of higher international prices for our products, an increase in the volume of exportable goods, and a rise in the effective exchange rate for exports (until August 1988, the official exchange policy tended to keep the nominal exchange rate high, combined with the reduction of the withholding begun on 20 July 1987).

In the case of industrial exports, the special programs for export promotion, the exchange policy, and the domestic recession that emerged in early 1988 as a consequence of the declining buying power of wages, all had an impact.

Farm exports in 1988 generated an estimated $6.361 billion in foreign exchange earnings. The change in the composition of foreign sales, in favor of the oil complex, was the most significant structural feature.

Next year farm exports are expected to generate even more foreign exchange earnings, thanks to the rise in the international prices of the goods Argentina has traditionally exported.

As a result of the drought that plagued the countries that are the main producers of wheat, corn, and soybeans in 1988, the reduction of worldwide stocks will lead to an adjustment of the balance between the supply and demand of grains. Consequently, prices will remain high.

If the domestic consumption of farm products intended for industrial uses remains stable at historic levels, farm exports will total $7.505 billion in 1989. This figure is based both on preliminary production estimates for the upcoming season (taking into account the area under cultivation and the expected yield of agricultural products) and on the conditions on the international meat, grain, and vegetable oil markets.

The increase over 1988 is expected to be $1.144 billion, of which 45.7 percent represents the increased value of wheat, corn, sorghum, and soybean sales abroad. Of these products, the increase in the marketing of soybeans is the most important, thanks to the interaction of higher domestic production and good international prices.

In the case of soybean oil sales, although marketing is expected to expand, no increases are expected in international prices in the short run. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that stocks of this product will be high in 1989, and some traditional importers will opt to use cheaper vegetable oils instead.

Meat sales abroad will not undergo major changes. It is important to consider trends in the prices of special cuts (Hilton), which have been downward in recent months. Moreover, at this time meat exporters face a difficult situation as a result of the exchange policy, which is holding back the price of the dollar. This means that the price in dollars on the domestic market will be high for the meat packing industry.

In 1989, the revenues generated by industrial exports will reach $2.627 billion, according to a projection by the Central Bank. The lack of stimulation in the form of new special programs for export promotion leads to less optimistic estimates, placing revenues at around $2.4 billion.

Total Argentine exports in 1989 can thus be estimated (assuming good weather conditions and no change in prices) at $9.9 billion, with a surplus over imports of no less than $3.8 billion.

Chile

Protest Sent Over Construction of Argentine Post

PY1002220689 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Report by Pia Diaz from Government Palace]

[Text] Uldericio Figueroa, acting Foreign Ministry spokesman and multilateral policies director, has reported that the Chilean Government is concerned over

the installation of an Argentine post near Portozuelo El Tamo, between Lake O'Higgins and Fitz Roy Hill in the 11th Region. The Chilean concerns will be submitted to the Chilean-Argentine Border Committee, which will definitively decide whether that territory belongs to Argentina or Chile.

[Begin Figueroa recording] The Chilean Government today protested to the Argentine Government about the construction of this post, because the Chilean Government believes that it has been built on Chilean territory. On 8 February, the Argentine ambassador to Santiago said the post is a shelter of the Patagonia Continental Ice National Institute, and that it was built on Argentine territory. The Chilean Government does not agree. As the Chilean-Argenine Border Committee has not ended its discussions on the region, the Chilean Government requested that the committee speed up the remaining technical work. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded by pointing out that this issue will be submitted to the appropriate technical and diplomatic bodies so that a definitive solution can be found. Both countries, he said, are filled with the spirit that inspired the 1984 Peace and Friendship treaty and have stated that they wish to overcome this tense situation.

PCCh Note Supports Vicariate of Solidarity

PY0902010789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] In a communique published in a clandestine edition of EL SIGLO daily, the outlawed PCCh has voiced its support for the Vicariate of Solidarity's decision not to hand over its medical files to the courts, as ordered by the Supreme Court.

These files have data on terrorists who were involved in attacks on and murders of Carabineros, and who have been assisted by Vicariate doctors.

The outlawed PCCh's note urges the people to form a wall of thousands of Chileans to support Msgr Sergio Valech, vicar of the Santiago Archdiocese Vicariate of Solidarity, in his decision not to hand over the medical files requested by the Supreme Court for the investigation of a Carabineros officer's murder.

APSI Director Charged With 'Offending' Pinochet

PY1002185089 Santiago Radio Chilena Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Today the Interior Ministry filed charges against Marcelo Contreras, director of the weekly APSI, for offending President Pinochet.

The offense is related to an article published by APSI, saying that the president bought property in Asuncion, Paraguay. The government denied the purchase and filed charges against Contreras. Judge Ricardo Galvez has been appointed to investigate this case.

Workers End Occupation of Australian Embassy

PY0902121189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The five members of the telephone company labor union who were occupying the Australian Embassy in Santiago have left the building. Through a communique, the workers denied that their reaction to the dismissal of 150 employees has political connotations. The company, however, has reiterated through another communique that the workers are seeking political rather than union objectives, adding that the company will begin a dialogue with the unions when they give up their political positions.

Colombia

Government Waiting for Rebel Groups' Responses

PA0902163689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report on statements by Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Despite presidential peace adviser Rafael Pardo's optimism over getting all guerrilla movements to agree to take up the government's [amnesty] proposal, four subversive groups have yet to reply.

[Pardo] "We have not had contact with any guerrilla group other than the M-19. We issued a call to all insurgent groups to begin direct talks under specified conditions, but so far there has been no reaction from the remaining insurgent groups."

Pardo defended the view that dialogue is the only way to stop the violence and rejected the idea that dialogue only provides an opportunity for the guerrillas to rearm.

[Pardo] "The Army of National Liberation has never talked to the government and yet it has grown. I do not think one can blame dialogue for causing an increase in guerrilla strength."

Pardo added that the country has been struggling for 8 years to obtain peace and said that if time is wasted, it will be very difficult for another political—and not an armed—alternative to present itself.

M-19 Reportedly To Become 'Legal Political Party'

PA1102041389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Feb 89 pp 1-a, 8-a

[Report by Arnulfo Sanchez]

[Text] Ibague—The M-19 will join civilian life and will become a legal political party.

This information was learned in Ibague, at the end of 3-day meeting between this guerrilla organization and government advisers.

A four-point agreement that was signed has been unofficially reported. Last night, President Virgilio Barco Vargas was being notified of the agreement in Bogota.

The points of the agreeement are:

1. There is a ratification of the agreement reached on 10 January between presidential adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda and guerrilla leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez.

2. The government will call on the Liberal Party, Conservative Party, Patriotic Union, and M-19 to work together and draft the commitments for a process of dialogue and pacification.

3. The M-19 will form a political team that will provide legal guidance to that group as of February. The team includes, among others, Antonio Navarro Wolff, Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, Arjaid Artunduaga, Ramiro Lucio Escobar, and Afranio Parra. That team will negotiate the mechanisms whereby the government will guarantee the life and security of the M-19 leaders so they may carry out political activities. The nation is hereby notified that regional dialogues are being discussed concerning the defense of justice, the struggle against unpunished crimes, and political reforms.

4. The two parties wish success to the National Peace Congress of Ibague, to be held 17-18 February.

The M-19 had previously joined civilian life during the government of Belisario Betancur, when an amnesty was signed for all the armed rebel groups, but this later expired without effect.

The guerrilla group joins civilian life at a time when other subversive group are raging across the national territory with terrorist actions.

Judges, Military Dispute Over Paramilitary

PA0902233989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Violence has claimed more than 1,500 lives in Colombia since the beginning of the year. Most of the deaths have been blamed on so-called paramilitary groups, which has caused confusion and a confrontation between judges and the military.

According to Army Commander in Chief Nelson Mejia Henao, charges of the Army's complicity and support of the paramilitary groups responsible for the massacres are false and were made up by the guerrillas.

Mejia Henao has said that the subversives intend to tarnish the Armed Forces' reputation and to psychologically harass the Army in retaliation for the successful operations it has recently launched.

Another controversial issue regarding the paramilitary groups has been the ruling by the 6th Judge of Public Order, who is currently investigating the Segovia massacre. The judge has ordered the arrest of both soldiers and police officers after charging them with armed intimidation and terrorizing people who distributed leaflets. She has also asked the defense minister to remove the officers from their posts in order to speed up the investigation.

The controversy was aggravated when the defense minister asked the director of criminal investigation to explain his statements to the press that the Armed Forces must be purged in light of the lack of respect for President Barco's orders, that the police have threatened the Criminal Investigation Department for investigating the Segovia case, and that mid-level police and Army officials are tolerating and supporting ultrarightist groups.

All of this is evidence of a confrontation between the military and the Judicial Branch. In effect, it is a struggle between the sword and the law.

17 ELN Rebels Killed in Clashes With Army

PA1002015589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Report by Alvaro Ayala]

[Text] Uraba Farming Industry Manager William Toro was murdered today on the outskirts of the Chigororo Municipality, northwestern Antioquia Department.

Clashes between Army 10th Brigade troops and Army of National Liberation [ELN] rebels continue in El Bagre, Antioquia Department.

The 10th Brigade commander confirmed that 17 guerrillas were killed in clashes that have been taking place at La Arenosa, El Bagre, Antioquia Department since early this week. The operation has also resulted in the dismantling of three ELN training camps.

The ELN rebels are responsible for the terrorist attack on some electric towers at Mineros de Antioquia.

Airborne 10th Brigade troops continue to pursue the rebels. It was also confirmed that 5 of the 17 dead guerrillas were women. The Army confiscated rifles and bombs during the operation.

In addition, 14 prisoners who had been released by an ELN unit in Segovia, Antioquia Department returned to jail. Three of the prisoners returned voluntarily, while the other 11 were arrested by the authorities in a lightning operation. Three of the prisoners are members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

Guerrillas Attack Valencia, Kill One Soldier

PA1102031589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A column of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board has seized Valencia, San Sebastian municipality, in southern Cauca Department. A soldier was killed and others were wounded in the confrontation. The attack occurred at 0100, when more than 200 guerrillas entered the town and attacked the police garrison with small arms and rifles.

Former Defense Minister Registers Party

PA1102033989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] General Fernando Landazabal Reyes this morning registered the Colombian Integrationist Movement [Movimiento Integracionista Colombiano]. The general, who is retired, said this action does not necessarily mean he is announcing his candidacy. Here is a report by Liliana Bigolla:

[Bigolla] Former Defense Minister Landazabal Reyes went to the National Registry office this morning and presented a formal request for legal status for the Colombian Integrationist Movement, founded 2 years ago.

He presented the application, the group's program, and a document containing the movement's postulates to Jaime Serrano Rueda, head of the registry office. The prerequisite to present a list of more than 10,000 members had already been met.

Gen Landazabal suggested clear peace policies:

[Begin recording] [Landazabal] I have my own formula. The country needs authority; it needs to be proven we have a democratic system. The country needs to make changes, basic reforms. It needs to restore order.

[Bigolla] What is the movement's leaning?

[Landazabal] It is a national movement, strictly Colombian.

[Bigolla] Do you contemplate the possibility of a dialogue?

[Landazabal] I have always considered a dialogue should be with the right group, not with the armed branch, but with the political branch. [end recording]

[Bigolla] Next week, the National Electoral Council will study the documents to give legal status to the Colombian Integrationist Movement.

Government Negotiates $1.7 Billion in Loans

PA1002033189 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Sources in the Colombian Finance Ministry have reported that the international banking sector, to which Colombia requested a $1.7-billion loan for 1989 and 1990, has begun to respond positively to Colombia's financial needs.

The same sources added that the Chemical Bank in New York already has several letters of commitment [cartas de compromiso] in which the Colombian Government is notified of which institutions will participate in the financing and in which the Chemical Bank specifies the amount of money that it will contribute to the syndicated loan.

Finance Ministry spokesmen stated that by 24 February, the Chemical Bank, the leading bank in this operation, or the Colombian Government should have received the letters of commitment of at least 95 percent of the 154 institutions that are supposed to participate in the loan.

After its tour through Japan and Europe, the government delegation [not further identified] went to North America to begin negotiations with Canadian and U.S. banks.

Rebel Weapons Shipment Seized in Italy

PA1002033089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] International arms smugglers continue to supply Latin American and Colombian guerrillas, but world authorities also deal blows to the merchants of death. Italian prosecutor Tiziana Farenti confirmed this evening that a 70-ton shipment of weapons seized yesterday at the Italian port of Savona was destined for Latin American guerrilla organizations, including some in Colombia and Bolivia.

Meanwhile, Colombian military authorities contacted their military attaches in Italy to confirm the news. The confiscated weapons are worth approximately $9 million and are part of a $30-million shipment, according to Italian prosecutor Farenti.

The port of Savona, near Genoa, was where 70 tons of weapons were discovered aboard the "Jenstar-Marstar," a cargo ship flying the Danish flag. The ship left Hamburg, FRG, several weeks ago and had arrived at the Italian port to unload and load merchandise.

The weapons would have been transferred yesterday to another ship bound for South America. The Italian police began to suspect something was wrong when they discovered that the crew had two bills of lading—one for

the South American countries where the cargo was being sent, and another for the Italian authorities that described the cargo as agricultural machinery and spare parts.

Opening some of the 5,000 boxes, the authorities found Czech-made pistols, rifles, machineguns, and ammunition worth approximately $9 million.

The Italian police have arrested 11 crew members. According to Mrs Tiziana Farenti, Savona had been chosen by the arms traffickers to change the labels on the boxes so they would read agricultural machinery. All the boxes were destined for Colombia or Bolivia.

Ecuador

Borja Renews Vow To Reduce Inflation

PA1002185589 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] President Rodrigo Borja today reported that inflation is showing a downward trend, fulfilling the promise made by the Social Democrats to control inflation and reduce it to 30 percent during the current year.

Borja explained that reducing inflation is a national goal requiring everyone's cooperation, including the political opposition, which is questioning the government's handling of economic affairs.

President Borja added that charges that his regime is distorting inflation figures are groundless because they are being made by colleagues of former president Leon Febres Cordero who, he said, are to blame for Ecuador's current economic crisis.

[Begin recording] [Borja] Inflation levels have dropped, I believe, from 5.9 to 5.3. Inflation is starting to decrease. We have thus begun to fulfill our promise to check the high cost of living, which severely affects the needy. We are going to make great efforts and ask for your cooperation: the cooperation of the media and that of all segments of the population in this national task. Reducing the high cost of living and curbing prices are national priorities that should not be restricted to the government. I ask for the understanding of all segments of the population, including those who oppose the government. One cannot overlook the needy who are severely affected by the high cost of living. Every one of you must help reduce inflation and curb the high cost of living.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Borja] The saying that people judge others according to their own behavior perfectly suits Mr. Dahik [Alberto Dahik, economic adviser to former president Febres Cordero]. He now offers all sorts of marvelous advice, but Mr. Dahik was Febres Cordero's right-hand man; he was his adviser. Mr. Dahik is largely to blame for this national disaster. We must ask him why he did not take any action when he was adviser and [words indistinct] the Central Bank. The marvels he tells the press today [words indistinct]. I recall that those who are complaining now are those who spent time boasting about the marvels they were going to accomplish once they reached power. When they finally reached power, these [words indistinct] occupied the posts of ministers, advisers, and Central Bank managers, and Ecuador's disastrous situation began. [end recording]

Authorizes Debt Refinancing

PA1002212789 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 1 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] Quito— President Rodrigo Borja has issued an executive decree authorizing the finance minister to sign a bilateral agreement and other documents with the Government of Switzerland to refinance the payment of loans granted or approved by the Swiss Government.

As part of the process to refinance the foreign debt, a debt consolidation document was signed on 20 January 1988 that contains the general guidelines under which bilateral agreements will be signed with the representives of all the creditor countries. The new agreement with the Swiss Government will be based on the consolidation document after it is approved by the Foreign Credits Committee, the Monetary Board, and the Attorney General's Office.

The debt that has not already been refinanced totals 7.807 billion Swiss francs to be paid at a fixed annual interest rate of 5.5 percent for commercial loans over 10 and ½ years, including a 6-year grace period. The payments shall be made in 10 equal and consecutive installments. The first payment shall be made on 31 January 1994 and the last on 31 July 1998.

The foreign debt previously refinanced totals 469,204 Swiss francs and 5.710 billion Swiss francs in commercial credits. The fixed annual interest rate will be 2.75 percent for the foreign debt, and 5.5 percent for the commercial credits, to be paid over an 8 and ½ year period, including a 6-year grace period. The payments shall be made in six equal and consecutive installments, the first of which will be paid on 31 January 1994 and the last on 31 July 1998.

Minister on 'Alfaro Lives' Decision

PA1002232989 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 28 Jan 89 p 3

[Unattributed report on interview with Ecuadoran Government Minister Andres Vallejo Arcos by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] Ecuadoran Government Minister Andres Vallejo Arcos has described as "good news for the country" the decision by the rebel group "Alfaro Lives" to cease its armed actions and return to civilian life under the protection of the Constitution and the law. The minister

underlined the importance of the dialogue, which makes it possible to solve problems and achieve objectives that could not have otherwise been achieved.

The minister's report follows the announcement by the rebel group's leader, who identified himself as "Commander Joaquin," of the cease-fire agreed upon by the government. The guerrilla leader was interviewed by reporter Carlos Vera. The conversation, which was aired on Sonovision's morning newscast, has elicited a number of comments.

In view of the importance of the official statement, this is the text of the interview with the minister.

[Reporter] When will the agreement between the government and "Alfaro Lives" be signed?

[Vallejo] No agreement will be signed because it is not necessary. The government welcomes the rebel group's decision and guarantees the constitutional rights of all citizens who abide by the law.

[Reporter] Are there any conditions?

[Vallejo] Only one. Armed actions must cease.

[Reporter] Did you say before that no talks were held and no agreement was reached with "Alfaro Lives"?

[Vallejo] I told you I never talked directly with the rebel group. Now I confirm that.

[Reporter] Whom did the group talk with? Who was the government spokesman?

[Vallejo] Economist Cesar Verduga.

[Reporter] Does this agreement—which apparently is a verbal one—also mean that the government will endorse the legalization of "Alfaro Lives" as a political group?

[Vallejo] It is their problem. We have made no commitment. They are fully entitled to participate in politics if that is what they want to do.

[Reporter] Is the government willing to provide the group with a written copy of the agreement if the group so requests?

[Vallejo] The goverment has held conversations with the group. These talks have led to what I am now reporting. I think this is good news for the country. That is all.

[Reporter] Are you willing to sign a document?

[Vallejo] It is unncessary to sign any document.

[Reporter] Do you trust the good intentions of the group?

[Vallejo] Yes.

[Reporter] Is there any guarantee that the group will lay down its arms?

[Vallejo] Their decision and a climate of peace and concerted effort. If this decision fails to crystallize into definite actions or if illegal activities are pursued, the group would, of course, be subject to legal sanctions, just as any other citizen would.

[Reporter] Will the "Alfaro Lives" members who are still in prison remain there?

[Vallejo] That is a judicial problem, as I have clearly stated. This does not at all entail special treatment for those in prison.

[Reporter] Will there be a political pardon?

[Vallejo] There are no plans for an amnesty; that is not the goal. During our talks, during our dialogue, we discussed absolutely nothing more than what I have told you. I was the only one who met with them.

I am referring to the Alfaro Lives case because this group made a public statement that we have discussed here.

The government welcomes this kind of attitude on the part of people who at a given moment might have participated in this kind of activity.

All citizens who wish to join civilian life, who wish to participate in legal activities under constitutional rules, enjoy the same opportunities.

[Reporter] Will the government meet with bankers, laborers, and workers as it has done with Alfaro Lives?

[Vallejo] The government has been holding talks; it has been doing so on a continual basis and it reaffirms its wish to continue these talks with all social groups in Ecuador under a legal framework. With this in mind, we have held talks with union, labor, business, university, and student leaders, and with representatives of all social sectors.

[Reporter] Is this a victory for the government?

[Vallejo] I believe it is a victory for the country. The issue is not whether the government is successful; this obviously shows that dialogue can help solve serious problems and that it is a much better way to solve them than violence.

[Reporter] Is this a result of concerted efforts?

[Vallejo] This shows that dialogue can solve problems and help us achieve objectives that we might otherwise have been unable to achieve.

Inflation Rate Increases to 89.4 Percent

PA1002213589 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Feb 89 p A-1

[Summary] Gaudencio Zurita, director of the Ecuadoran National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), said yesterday the annual rate of inflation reached 89.4 percent in January and that the rate of inflation for the month of January was 5.3 percent. By December 1988, prices had risen 85.7 percent, in terms of a 1-year period.

Zurita attributed the rise in the rate of inflation to increases in the price of such staples as cooking oil, fresh milk, and milk by-products. Regarding the trend toward deceleration in the rate of inflation during January, INEC's director said there was reason to believe that government's anti-inflation policies were both realistic and effective, provided a national consensus could be achieved among the various sectors of society.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Accepts Presidential Candidacy

PY1002180089 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 1540 GMT 10 Feb 89

[News conference with Conrado Pappalardo Saldivar, general secretary of the Presidency, by unidentified reporters following the first cabinet meeting of the new government on 10 February at Government House in Asuncion—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Pappalardo] A few days ago—not at this meeting—as soon as they had assumed their posts, Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Colorado Party, and Luis Maria Argana, party first vice president, came here in the name of the Colorado Party to ask General Rodriguez to be the party's presidential candidate in the upcoming general election.

This candidacy will be confirmed at the party's convention, which will be held on 11 April.

All other political parties, without exception, will also present their candidates.

[Reporter] Was the candidacy accepted?

[Pappalardo] It was accepted by President Rodriguez. [passage omitted]

Another important measure was adopted today. The newspaper ABC COLOR has been authorized to reappear. The Interior Ministry is going to grant the pertinent authorization.

[Reporter] When?

[Pappalardo] The interior minister has been authorized by the cabinet to immediately inform the owner of the newspaper of this decision.

Argana on Drugs, Foreign Relations, Elections

PY1002154289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana yesterday gave a news conference in which he promises to pursue a merciless war against drug trafficking, to destroy all marijuana plantations in the country, and to expedite trade with the EEC. He also discussed the upcoming elections.

One of the specific issues discussed during his conversation with the U.S. ambassador was a plan to detect marijuana plantations throughout the country with aerial photographs. Once the marijuana fields are detected, they will be sprayed. It was decided that this plan will formally begin in March.

Regarding the visit paid to him by Spanish Ambassador Eduardo Cerro, Argana said: "He has come to express, in the name of the Spanish Government and of the EEC, the continuation of relations. Spain upholds the Estrada Doctrine, which addresses recognition in the sense that it considers every country is sovereign under whatever government it deems appropriate."

"Ambassador Cerro said the EEC is very enthusiastic and has great faith and hope in the initial steps taken by the Paraguayan Government toward a process of real democracy," Argana stated.

He added that the country's current political and economic reform process will aim at promoting economic developemnt, with an aggressive policy to attain greater and better development.

Regarding the political field, Argana said the upcoming elections will not be as broad as he would have liked, with respect to the full rights of voters.

"However, the pressure of time forces us to take this first step, doing the best we can under the present conditions. I think the great democratic debate will come in the 1993 elections, when the political parties will have enough time to organize themselves, and the electoral lists are reorganized," he said.

In response to a question regarding our relations with other countries, Argana said they are based on the nonintervention principle. Another principle is that of equality of nations under the law, as well as maintaining good and friendly relations with the countries of the world that have a democratic ideology. In response to a question about what position Paraguay would adopt regarding the Central American situation, or in a conflict such as the Malvinas Islands, he answered that "Paraguay will follow the principles I just mentioned."

Officials of Stroessner Government Arrested

PY1102145289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
11 Feb 89 p 7

[Text] According to very reliable sources, 35 former officials and congressmen of the previous government presided over by General Alfredo Stroessner have been arrested and are being held at military and police units.

The list includes Cesar Romeo Acosta (former president of the Central Bank), Pastor Milciades Coronel (former chief of the Police Investigations Department), Ramon Enrique Reverchon (former congressman and former president of the Colorado Party precinct in the city of Encarnacion), Ramon Matiauda (formerly chief of police in the town of Santa Rosa), Mario Abdo Benitez (former private secretary to the president and former second vice president of the Colorado Party), Miguel Geronimo Fernandez (former congressman and owner of Asuncion Radio Asuncion), Bernardino Callero Cazal (former government delegate in Alto Parana Department), Ubaldo Centurion Morinigo (former congressman), Juan Eudes Pereira (former congressman and former president of the Colorado Party precinct in Puerto Presidente Stroessner City). The list continues with Martin Chiola (former congressman), Manuel Modesto Esquivel (former director of the post office), Gustavo Gimenez (former president of the Colorado Party precinct in the town of Villeta), Adan Godoy Jimenez (former public health and social welfare minister and former first vice president of the Colorado Party), Raul Ernesto Villalba (former congressman), Carlos Ortiz Ramirez (former education and worship minister), Lorenzo J. Romero (former president of the Colorado Party precinct of the town of Fernando de la Mora and former mayor of the same town), Roberto Velazquez Escobar (former congressman), Gustavo Doria Centurion (former general secretary of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry), Juan Manuel Cameron Montanaro (former congressman), Antonio Colman Rodriguez (former congressman), Francisco Torales Basualdo [no title given], Ramon Aquino (former president of the 14th Colorado Party precinct of Asuncion), Mario Pastor Almada (former president of the 23d Colorado Party precinct of Asuncion), Eligio Tomas Franco (former president of the Housing Bank), Juan F. Recaldo [no title given], Augusto Anibal Lima (former general secretary of the Goverment Delegate's Office of Alto Parana Department), Genaro Espinola Farina (former congressman), Anibal Schupp (former government delegate for San Pedro de Ykuamandyju Department), Israel Iriarte (a businessman from Puerto President Stroessner City), Justo Eris Almada (former administrator of the free port zone in Paranagua, Brazil), and Alejandro Caceres Almada [former director of Radio Nacional].

The following persons have also been arrested: Dario Filartiga (former Interior Ministry under secretary), and Teodoro Rivarola (former congressman). It has been learned that other well-known politicians of the Militant faction of the Colorado Party and former officials of General Stroessner's regime have presumably been arrested and are being held by the security forces. Their identities still remain secret.

A responsible source has indicated that the majority of the arrested persons will be placed at the disposal of the courts to be tried for crimes committed during their tenures as public employees during the previous government. There will be more details on this matter within the next few weeks.

Two prominent members of General Stroessner's government remain at large. They are former Justice and Labor Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet and former Interior Minister Augusto Sabino Montanaro, who was also the former president of the Colorado Party. According to reports, Jacquet is residing in Miami, United States, while Montanaro has sought asylum in the home of a Honduran diplomat.

Nothing is known about other former ministers of the previous government, especially Delfin Ugarte Centurion, who was industry and commerce minister. Also, nothing is known about General Francisco Alcibiades Britez, former chief of the Asuncion Police, and his sons. It is believed they are under arrest.

Stroessner Government Attorney General Resigns

PY1102163489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
10 Feb 89 p 51

[Summary] Attorney General Clotildo Jimenez Benitez this morning handed in his resignation to the justice and labor minister. He held this post under the Stroessner government for 15 years.

Rodriguez Orders Dismissal of Retired Officer

PY1002132289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
9 Feb 89 pp 50, 51

[Excerpt] General Andres Rodriguez, Armed Forces commander and president of Paraguay, this morning ordered that Lieutenant Colonel Hernan Diaz Godoy be dismissed from the Army for misconduct. The retired officer, who resides at 1622 MacArthur Street in Asuncion, had committed an act that put a woman's life and property at risk.

A resolution signed by Interior Minister General Orlando Machuca Vargas and Interior Ministry Secretary Dr Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche says that Diaz Godoy was taken to the Tacumbu jail, to be held awaiting court prosecution.

The Interior Ministry resolution adds that at 0330 this morning the retired officer "fired a gun at the home of Mrs Ana Zarza de Silveira at Morquio and Cerro Cora Streets, for which reason Armed Forces Commander General

Andres Rodriguez has ordered that this retired officer be dismissed from the Army and taken to the Tacumbu jail to await court prosecution." [passage omitted]

EEC Countries Recognize Rodriguez Government

PY1102163789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 3

[Summary] The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that all the EEC countries have officially recognized the government of General Andres Rodriguez. These countries are Ireland, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and France. The government of Canada has also officially notified Paraguay that it recognizes the new government.

Police Order Civilians To Turn in Weapons

PY1002145989 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[By Fermin Martinez]

[Text] The police public relations department has issued Police Communique No 6 in order to inform the public. The communique reads:

Brigadier General Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez, chief of police, appeals to the conscientiousness and good will of the general public, asking that any person who for any reason is in possession of war material, equipment, or uniforms that are for the exclusive use of the nation's Armed Forces, please return them to the nearest military unit, without fear of any type of punishment.

The document continues by warning that if any person or institution possessing war materiel or equipment disobeys this request, they will be subject to strong measures and will be put at the disposal of military courts.

The cooperation of the population is also requested to observe the order, calm, and harmony that police desire, and it is asked that if anyone has knowledge of civilians in the possession of weapons, equipment, or uniforms, they please report the information to military and/or police units.

The police document, which was disseminated just a few minutes ago, is signed by Brigadier General Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez, chief of police, and by Police Commissioner Osvaldo Palacios Morinigo, chief of police public relations department.

Montanaro To Be Tried, No Safe Conduct Granted

PY1102210189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 10

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Orlando Machuca Vargas has told the press that the interior minister of the overthrown regime, Sabino A. Montanaro, who has sought asylum at the Honduran Consulate, will be tried by the Paraguayan Courts and will not be given the safe conduct he wanted to leave the country.

Machuca Vargas stated that a decision has already been made in this respect. He added that the former health minister, Adan Godoy Jimenez, the former private secretary of General Stroessner, Mario Abdo Benitez, and other high- ranking former officials are under arrest, and that they will be turned over to the courts to render accounts on possible misuse of public funds and other illegal actions committed during Stroessner's dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Correction to Rodriguez Comments on Officials

PY0902165489

The following correction pertains to the item with subheading "Comments on Former Officials," published in the 8 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 38:

page 38, column one, paragraph two, make read: ...[Report by Tony Leon from Government House] (changing subslug)

page 38, column one, paragraph three, sentence one make read: ...[Excerpts] The audience that the president of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez, granted to the board of directors of the Production, Industry, and Commerce Federation, FEPRINCO, concluded a few minutes ago. The board of directors of the Paraguayan Industrial Union, UIP, and of the Paraguayan Rural Society, headed by Robert Carissimo, also participated in the audience. Thus, the leaders of the top business organizations of our country met with the provisional president. [passage omitted].

President Andres Rodriguez also spoke with a Venezuelan television crew. We recorded the president's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez, in progress]...your (providing introductory passage)

page 38, column one, penultimate paragraph make read: ...[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording] (providing end recording notation)

Peru

Navy Seizes 2 Ecuadoran Fishing Vessels

PY1202023989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0116 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 11 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria today reported that two Ecuadoran ships were seized, apparently for fishing for sardines in Peruvian waters.

According to the minister, Peruvian Navy patrols boats seized two vessels—one of 250 and another of 350 tons—which were carrying a total of 80 tons of sardines.

The Ecuadoran ships were taken to the Peruvian port of Zorritos, near the border with Ecuador.

The Peruvian Fisheries Minister was visiting the Department of Tumbez, which borders Ecuador, where he gave some small boats to fishermen around the towns of Tumbez and Piura.

Police Clash With Peasants in Pucallpa; 5 Dead

PY1002190289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0304 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 9 Feb (EFE)—Official sources in Lima reported that today five peasants died, 19 were wounded, and 350 were detained by security forces as a result of a clash between policemen and peasants in Pucallpa, capital of the jungle deparment of Ucayali, 840 km northeast of Lima.

Interior Minister Juan Soria said that the clash took place when the police tried to break up a protest march of nearly 1,000 peasants who were demanding the Pucallpa Agrarian Bank pay them money owed for the sale of their produce.

Soria said that four policemen, including an officer, were wounded in the clash. He also said that 12 alleged members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) were seen acting as agitators.

The minister said that the protesters, instigated by MRTA activists, disrupted public order and attacked private and public property, including a police truck.

Soria reported that reinforcements were sent today to the area and added that he thought that the security forces must have the situaiton under control by now.

Peasants from different parts of the Peruvian jungle region have been carrying out strikes, marches, and road blocks for 2 weeks, to demand both payment of the money owed them and more government attention to their problems.

The minister added that last week some police officers (?were transferred) from Lima to Pucallpa when they learned that some terrorists had intensified their agitation and after an MRTA group that had been blackmailing local businessmen was caught.

The MRTA started its violent activities in the Peruvian jungle in November 1987, led by Victor Polay Campos. Polay Campos was arrested on 3 February by the Peruvian police, 3 years after he first appeared in public in Lima as a Marxist-oriented urban guerrilla.

Police sources state that the terrorist group is active in the region and it coordinates its actions with the local drug trafficking groups, which supply them with weapons in exchange for protection.

Civil Guard Arrests Three Subversives

PY1002131189 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] General Osvaldo Diaz, chief of the 7th Subregional Zone of the Civil Guard, has reported that three subversives have been captured.

He said that one of the subversives was arrested in Chosica, and the other two were arrested after exploding a bomb in Callao. The subversives have been identified as Juan Calero Busquis, a university teacher; Franklin Aranda Fariuga, a student at the University of San Marcos; and Victor Aparcualito, of Huancavelica, who was carrying 20 sticks of dynamite.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Returns From Venezuela, Brazil

PY0402131389 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Excerpt] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and his delegation arrived in the Carrasco International Airport at 2200 last night. The president arrived in an airplane on the Brazilian Air Force from Brasilia, where he stopped on his return from Caracas. [passage omitted]

Falklands Bound British Tristar Lands

Emergency Landing

PY1002225689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Feb (EFE)—A British plane with 137 passengers on route to the Malvinas Islands today made an emergency landing in Uruguay.

The plane, a British Air Force Tristar, registered ZE704, carrying eight crew members, requested permission from the control tower of the Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo to land . The plane made the request alleging bad weather conditions over the Atlantic Ocean.

This is the third plane in less than a year that used Montevideo for an emergency landing.

May Head for Ascension Island

PY1102021689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0140 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Feb (TELAM-EFE)—The Uruguayan Goverment does not know if it should authorize the British military plane that, while on route to the Malvinas Islands, today made an emergency landing "for humanitarian reasons" in Montevideo, to continue its flight or to return to its base on Ascension Island, in the central Atlantic.

The plane, a British Royal Air Force Tristar, registered ZE704, which carried 137 passengers and eight crewmen, is parked on the auxiliary runway of the Carrasco International Airport. Its passengers, who entered the country with tourist visas, were taken to a hotel near the airport.

The passengers, all of whom are very young, did not make any statements to the press.

Answering a question about what diplomatic decision will be made regarding the military plane, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Barrios Tassano said: "We are assessing the situation."

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that before making any decision we have to have a report from Air Force authorities.

Officials Meet British Envoy

PY1102022889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (NA)—The British military Tristar on route to the Malvinas Islands this afernoon landed at the Montevideo international airport. It was carrying 137 passengers and eight crew members.

According to information that NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS has been able to gather, the plane landed today at 2015 at the Carrasco International Airport, 17 km from Montevideo. The plane alleged that because of "weather conditions" [words indistinct] held a meeting tonight with the British ambassador to Uruguay who informed them of the reasons for the landing. They informed the British ambassador that the miltiary phane should depart "as soon possible to its base of origin."

During the meeting with Uruguayan Foreign Ministry officials, the British ambassador promised that the British plane will leave Uruguayan territory early in the morning and that it will not be bound for the Malvinas Islands.

Almost all of the plane's passengers are young British soldiers. There are also a few civilians, no more than 10, who apparently are tourists. All of them have been lodged at the Carrasco Hotel, near the Carrasco Airport.

A similar incident occurred in May 1988, when a Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules made an emergency landing while on route to the Malvinas Islands. At that time, the Uruguayan Government adopted the same position it is adopting now.

Plane Departs

PY1102144989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1420 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The British military plane that landed yesterday at Montevideo's Carrasco Airport departed this morning for Ascension Island, thus complying with the express instructions of the Uruguayan Government, which allowed it to depart on the condition that it did not continue its flight to the Malvinas Islands.

Spokemen for Carrasco Airport consulted by Montevideo Radio Carve indicated that the plane departed after the Uruguayan Government gave its express authorization and on the condition that it return to Ascension Island. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Foreign Reserves Net Position

PY0402144989 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 28 Jan 89 p 10

[Summary] The Central Bank has reported that during 1988 net foreign reserves increased by $88.8 million.

National Bank Reports Export Figures

PY0902125589 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Summary] The National Bank has reported that Uruguayan exports totaled $1,394,000,000 during 1988, which represents a 17-percent increase over 1987.

Argentine Terrorist May Have Left Country

PY0902205289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0138 GMT 9 Feb 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Feb (EFE)—Uruguayan police sources reported today that Argentine terrorist Enrique Gorriaran Merlo could have entered the country with forged documents. They also admitted that he may have traveled to Central America.

The sources told the press that "it is quite unlikely that Gorriaran Merlo is still in Uruguay, and that he could have left for some Central American country, "possibly for Nicaragua, where he will find support."

The Uruguayan police, and especially the Interpol Department, are still seeking the Argentine terrorist who is believed to be the leader of the group that on 23 January 1989 attacked a garrison in Buenos Aires.

In the attack on the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, 27 people died. Gorriaran Merlo presumably led the attack from an automobile parked near the garrison, according to reports in Buenos Aires.

The terrorist and his wife Sonia [words indistinct] and Cecilia, 20-year-old twins, managed to escape by crossing the Uruguay River from [words indistinct] Delta (in Argentina) to the Uruguayan city of [word indistinct], the sources added.

Interpol sources have reported that the possibility that Gorriaran Merlo may have entered Uruguay "has not been discarded, and that the search continues."